



## CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Approval Date:**

**May 6, 2020**

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex  
94235 Moore Street, Gold Beach, Oregon

[www.co.curry.or.us](http://www.co.curry.or.us)

### WEEKLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

**March 25, 2020**

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paasch at 8:59 a.m. Present were Chair Christopher Paasch, Vice-Chair Court Boice, Commissioner Sue Gold.

Also present: Legal Counsel John HuttI and Administrative Assistant John Jezuit

Absent: Director of Operations Julie Schmelzer

The Pledge was recited by all

#### 2. LINE OF DUTY CASUALTY REPORT

Boice gave the report.

#### 3. AMENDMENT/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Gold – Add to discussion 7H concern regarding homeless population and Add 7I Kite Festival

Boice – Add to discussion 7J to address COVID-19 pandemic concerns

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to approve agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per person)

Gordon Clay spoke about a potential increase in suicide rate due to high unemployment and urged citizens to be aware of warning signs. Josh Stout gave an update on what is being done in the community, specifically, his organization, Clean One Initiative, working in collaboration with WHO (World Health Organization), will be making health sanitizer sprays and gels. Clean One Initiative will distribute to those in need. Kaitlin Coleman, Event Center Manager, spoke about changes in the Event Center operations, specifically, it is closed to the public and may be considered as a temporary hospital.

#### 5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation - April Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month – Jackie Antunes, Wally's House.

Paasch read the proclamation.

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to proclaim April as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. Motion carried unanimously.

For detailed information on any agenda item, refer to Audio/Video.

B. Proclamation - April as Volunteer Appreciation Month – Commissioner Gold  
Gold spoke about the County’s appreciation of volunteer groups and their members. Paasch read the proclamation.

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to proclaim April as Volunteer Appreciation Month. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Transfer of an Employee – C. Hamel Ashby
- B. Promotion of an Employee – C. Brewer

Motion by Boice, seconded by Gold, to approve consent agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Oregon Public Works Emergency Response Cooperative Assistance Agreement with Signature Authority to the Chair – Richard Christensen, Roadmaster.  
Christensen summarized the agreement.

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to approve Emergency Response agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Board Signature for Dyer Partnership Task Order 10B for Archaeological Investigation Permit for Oregon State Historic Preservation Office - Richard Christensen, Roadmaster  
Christensen explained the request. Boice asked about the time line

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to approve Dyer partnership order. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Order Limiting Public Access to Certain County Buildings – Chet Brewer, Facilities Director  
Brewer requested the Annex Building to be closed to public access and stated the Clerk’s office will remain open, Paasch requested proper notification be placed on the outside doors and stated the County is open for appointments. Boice, too, wants to let public know we are open. Gold concurs with Paasch and Boice. Huttli suggested sign wording, “We are open, door is locked.”

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to approve limiting public access. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Order Designating Essential Employees in the Event a Shelter in Place or Quarantine Order is Implemented – John Huttli, County Council  
Huttli spoke about how Governor Brown’s order affects the County, stating if the Governor orders a shelter in place non-essential employees will have 2 weeks administrative leave. Paasch read the order. Julie Swift, Personnel and Payroll Coordinator. asked for clarification regarding how a shelter in place order would affect compensation for those employees who are designated non-essential and cannot work remotely.

For detailed information on any agenda item, refer to Audio/Video.

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to approve order, as amended by Schmelzer, designating certain employee as essential employees. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Curry County Temporary Policy Response To Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 – Commissioner Boice

Boice summarized the document, which came from Coos County, stating he did not study it closely as he had relied on the three (3) Coos County Commissioners. Boice also expressed concern about public safety and a possible liability issue. Paasch stated he wanted Schmelzer to have input on the wording and observed many of these are department head decisions. Gold cautioned against micro-managing and asked what is the purpose of the document as the County has already addressed many of the subjects mentioned in the document. Huttli suggested changes to the wording to make the document more “Curry-centric,” agrees with Paasch concerning the need for Schmelzer’s input, and asked the document be brought back to the Board after Schmelzer’s review.

F. Proclaiming March Self-Injury Awareness Month – Commissioner Boice

Boice praised Gordon Clay’s efforts, input, and work in this field.

Motion by Boice, seconded by Gold, to proclaim March as Self-Injury Awareness Month. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Curry Essential Newspaper – Media – Commissioner Boice

Boice spoke about importance of this to rural counties and observed this will tell state we are serious about our newspapers for proper public notifications. Matt Hall stated 40% of the people in Curry County do not have internet or computers. Gold stated she agrees newspapers are essential. Huttli stated this will be a statement of policy.

Motion by Boice, seconded by Gold, to proclaim three (3) Curry County newspapers essential. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDED TO DISCUSSION AGENDA

7H Gold read a letter from Beth Barker-Hidalgo, Director of The Curry Homeless Coalition, expressing concerns about the Curry County homeless population and suggesting how the County could deal with the issue. Gold stated she passed the letter onto Schmelzer who will work on a response.

ADDED TO DISCUSSION AGENDA

7I Kite Festival

Gold asked if the planning for the festival, scheduled for July 17-19, 2020, should continue, stating she has conferred with Schmelzer about this. Paasch observed the Summer Olympics were postponed to 2021. Huttli asked what is the County’s role in the Kite Festival. Christensen advised the Kite Festival involves the road department.

ADDED TO DISCUSSION AGENDA

7J Commissioners to Address Public at Beginning of Meetings.

Boice stated addressing issues and concerns at the beginning of the Board meeting is an effort to make meeting as fast as possible for items we need to get out to the public early on. Paasch feels this

For detailed information on any agenda item, refer to Audio/Video.

does not need to be an agenda item. Gold agrees with Paasch as a lot of issues and concerns will come up during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

## **8. LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

## **9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

## **10. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

### **A. Commissioner Boice spoke about**

- Meetings, phone ins, and syncing video and audio expressing the need to keep things simple.
- Public Health – Praised Public Health and observed he does not know where we are going to find funding.
- Secretary of State Bev Clarno who stated Oregon will go ahead with the May 19<sup>th</sup> election.
- The Clerk's office being open.
- Looking forward to working with Summer Matteson, Economic Development Coordinator; George Rhodes; Representative David Brock Smith on the Curry Business Recovery Committee and working with Senator Merkley's office as well.
- The Senate stimulus bill and dollars appropriated observing he has an issue with dollars going to the State and not back to the counties, and warning we have to position ourselves and be aggressive with respect to money.
- An AOC (Association of Oregon Counties) letter regarding small employers being intimidated by bureaucracy.
- Working with Shelía Megson, Chief of Staff, Representative Smith, for money to mitigate jail medical expense and will soon be speaking to Sheriff Ward about this.
- 5 to stay alive program -- 5 gallons of gas, 5 grocery items, 5 hours to get home -- if we get to point where we have to close travel into the County.

### **B. Commissioner Gold spoke about**

- A Regional Solution meeting and gave a brief update of the meeting which was run by Alex Campbell, Southern Oregon Region Coordinator.
- Emergency loan fund of up to \$10,000
- TLT (Transient Lodging Tax) revenue decrease as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Senators Wyden and Merkley staff's are focused
- Temporary moratorium on eviction and mortgages.
- The hot line as not workable with volunteers answering the phones.

### **C. Commissioner Paasch spoke about**

- Having a conversation with the public regarding the difficult times we are facing here, his concern about hearing so much negativity in public and on social media observing we are running at a bare bones staffing level, and requesting patience from the public toward county employees who are here to serve the public.
- Asking Schmelzer and Summer Matteson, Economic Development Coordinator, to create a COVID-19 button on the website.
- The virus having shut down the economy of the world and those ramifications will be greater than the damage the virus does.

For detailed information on any agenda item, refer to Audio/Video.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

192.660(2)(f)&(h) Litigation and Exempt Information

Chair Paasch entered Executive Session at 11:17 a.m. and exited at 11:39 a.m.

Staff to proceed as directed.

**12. HIRE ORDERS**


None

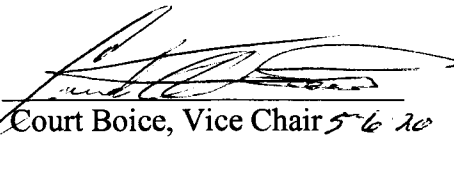
**13. OTHER** (ORS.192.640( 1) ". . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.")

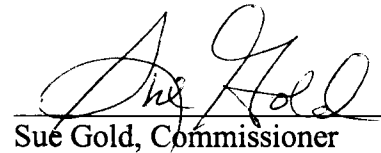
**14. ADJOURN**

Chair Paasch adjourned the meeting at 11:39a.m.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2020.

  
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Christopher S. Paasch, Chair

  
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Court Boice, Vice Chair 5/6/20

  
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Sue Gold, Commissioner

Minutes prepared by: John Jezuit, Administrative Assistant