



CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Date Approved:

May 26, 2021

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

www.co.curry.or.us

Special Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2021

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Boice at 11:30 a.m. Present were Chair Court Boice, Vice Chair John Herzog, and Commissioner Chris Paasch.

Also present: Legal Counsel Anthony Pope and Administrative Assistant John Jezuit

Absent: Director of County Operations Brad Rueckert

The Pledge was recited by all.

2. APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Herzog, seconded by Paasch, to approve agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Martin disagreed with the transfer and encouraged the Board to have a workshop regarding mental health. Nancy Sue Rose hopes questions will be answered and noted mental health needs of people here. Captain Phil McDonald strongly disagrees with the decision to transfer mental health, observed the Sheriff's department interacts more with mental health than any other agency in the County, and advised the Board not to give up control of mental health. Janell Howard expressed concern about giving up local control, and stated she is disappointed if CCH (Curry Community Health) will step up to the plate only if the Board gives up local control. Brad Alcorn stated it is important for law enforcement to have a place to take people who need help. Pope stated, by statute, the four (4) year time frame applies to Public Health, not Mental Health.

The Commissioners responded to the Public Comments. Boice read the CCH letter, noted the County has a good opportunity here, said this is a temporary deal, and observed CCH has some hard feelings. Herzog stated timing is big as the County does not want to lose any services, observed keeping the 24/7 services we have now is critical, and noted this is a win-win. Paasch commented on this decision, specifically, he (1) noted it is a shame to have such a short period of time to make the decision, (2) suggested a workshop with all effected parties to discuss this issue, and (3) urged the Board to be very careful.

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4. DISCUSSION

A. Curry County – Transfer Curry Local Mental Health Authority to the Oregon Health Authority - Resolution - Commissioner Boice

Boice read the resolution. A lengthy discussion with Barnes, Judge Cynthia Beaman, Boice, Herzog, Martin, Capt. McDonald, Paasch, and Pope about the impact of this decision on the County followed. Paasch asked about all the inventory, real estate, and money the county gave to CCH and stated Ginny Williams, CEO of CHN (Curry Health Network) could provide services. Herzog stated CCH is best option for County right now and emphasized services cannot change. Boice spoke about building a relationship with CCH and possibly forming a task force. Judge Beaman emphasized communications with the County and citizens need to be better because people are confused about what is going on, noted it is helpful to have more than one (1) provider, observed there is not time for a workshop, and encouraged the Board to come up with a comprehensive plan and multiple providers. Barnes, speaking as a public citizen, urged the Board not to give County stuff away. Martin asked about what is going to happen in September 2021 and recommended a workshop.

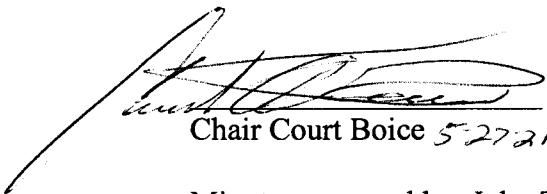
Motion by Herzog, seconded by Boice, to relinquish local mental health authority back to the Oregon Health Authority, OHA, State of Oregon. Motion carried 2-1 (Boice – Yes; Herzog – Yes; Paasch – No)

5. 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.")

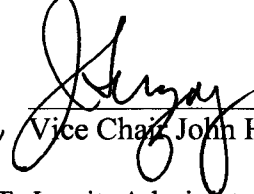
6. ADJOURN

Chair Boice adjourned meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Dated this 26th day of May, 2021.



Chair Court Boice 5-27-21



Vice Chair John Herzog



Commissioner Christopher S Paasch

Minutes prepared by: John T. Jezuit, Administrative Assistant

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Curry County Strategic Plan:

1. Financial Stability 2. Economic Development 3. Quality of Life 4. Public Trust 5. Infrastructure