Crook County Board of County Commissioners Minutes
of March 18, 2026, Regular Session

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of County Commissioners met in a Regular Session on March 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Crook County Annex Meeting Room, located at 320 NE Court Street, Prineville, OR 97754.

Regular Session Agenda

Board Members Present: Seth Crawford, Susan Hermreck, Brian Barney
Board Members Absent:
Others Present in Person or Via Zoom: County Manager Will Van Vactor; Executive Assistant Breyanna Cupp; County Counsel Eric Blaine; Legal Assistant Alex Solterbeck; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; Systems Engineer Chelsea Watson; Undersheriff Bill Elliott; Community Development Director John Eisler; Finance Director Christina Haron; Budget Manager Jamie Berger; HR Director Meghan McKee; Assessor Jon Soliz; Administrative Division Manager Stephanie Wilson; Natural Resources Manager Tim Deboodt; County Clerk Cheryl Seely; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; Holli Kingsbury; Julie Thompson; Twandy Byrd; OHSRA Secretary Bobbi Aldrich; Jessica Barnes; Brady Bafford; Ryann Bafford; Tenley Woollard; Baylee Keegan; Chris Cookston; and members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 AM.

Public Comment
None

Consent Agenda

1. Approve Minutes

2. Approval of Landfill Outbound Scale Replacement to Scales Northwest

3. Approval of Agreement for Operation and Management of the COCC/Crook County Open Campus Building

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

Discussion

4. Supplemental Budget Resolution – Resolution 2026-11 Adopting a Supplemental Budget for Crook County Fiscal Year 2026

Requester:
Jamie Berger, Budget Manager

Presenter(s):
Christina Haron, Finance Director
Jamie Berger, Budget Manager

Details: Budget Manager Jamie Berger and Finance Director Christina Haron attended the Regular Session to present Resolution 2026-11, a supplemental budget resolution reflecting a minor increase to the overall county budget. The adjustment is necessary due to timing changes in the receipt and distribution of Wolf Committee depredation grant funds, which were initially appropriated in the prior fiscal year but must now be recognized and passed through in the current fiscal year. Christina noted this is primarily a timing correction related to the grant's distribution schedule rather than a significant budget expansion. It was also noted that anticipated Wolf Committee allocations for the upcoming year are expected to decrease, which may result in reduced funding availability for future claims.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to A resolution adopting a supplemental budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, resolution 2026-11. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

5. Fairgrounds Grant Awards Acceptance Consideration — Facebook, and Crooked River Roundup Foundation

Requester:
Casey Daly, Fairgrounds Manager

Details: Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly attended the Regular Session to report that the Fairgrounds has been awarded two grants. The first is a donation from the Rural Oregon Community Foundation (formerly Crooked River Roundup Foundation), which includes 40 new stock pens from Wilco valued at approximately $25,000. The second is a $15,000 Meta Community Action Grant to retrofit Carrie Foster Hall with a new PA system, screen, and projector. Commissioner Hermreck noted that with previous purchases and donations, the Fairgrounds now has an expanded inventory of livestock panels, significantly improving operational capacity and reducing the need to borrow equipment from neighboring counties, allowing for more efficient fair setup in advance of the event.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to accept the Fairgrounds grant awards from Facebook and Crooked River Roundup Foundation.. Brian Barney seconded. Votes Yes: Seth Crawford, Susan Hermreck, Brian Barney. Votes No: None. Motion Passed.

6. Fee Waiver Request — Tri County High School Rodeo and Oregon High School Rodeo State Finals
Requester:
Bobbi Aldrich, OHSRA Secretary
Presenter(s):
Bobbi Aldrich, OHRSA Secretary
Brady Bafford, Tri County HS Advisor

Details: OHSRA Secretary Bobbi Aldrich and representatives from Oregon High School Rodeo attended the Regular Session and expressed appreciation to the County for its continued support, noting the organization has been hosting events in Crook County for over 20 years after relocating from Klamath Falls. Due to local support, the organization is able to provide scholarships to all eligible graduating seniors, directly benefiting participating students. Members of the Tri-County Rodeo Club, including student leadership, were introduced and thanked the County for its support, highlighting the positive impact on their events and operations. Upcoming events include the Tri-County Rodeo scheduled for May 1–3 and the State Finals beginning June 10. The Commissioners discussed implementing a $250 facility use fee for the Oregon High School Rodeo State Finals to contribute toward Fairgrounds operations. It was also noted that the events bring significant economic activity to the community, and participation in the program continues to grow, with membership approaching 250 students.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to $250 for use of the grounds that they will give to Crook County Fairgrounds, and then the rest waived. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

7. Carey Foster Hall Rental Fee Waiver Request – Crook County Stock Growers Association
Requester:
Holli Kingsbury, Treasurer

Details: Holli Kingsbury, representing the Crook County Stock Growers Association, attended the Regular Session to provide an update on the upcoming Ranch Roping Show and Banquet scheduled for March 27–29. She requested a waiver of the Carey Foster Hall facility fee ($720) to help reduce overall event costs and increase funds available for scholarships, 4-H support, and other youth-related programs. The total event cost was noted at approximately $4,791, with additional sponsorships and donations helping offset expenses. Commissioner Hermreck and Commissioner Barney disclosed their membership in the Stock Growers Association for transparency purposes prior to discussion. The request for fee waiver was noted in the context of supporting local youth programs and community benefits.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to that stock growers have the Carey Foster Hall and kitchen fee of $720 waived. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

8. Community Development January and February Update
Requester:
John Eisler, Community Development Director
Presenter(s):
John Eisler, Community Development Director
Randy Davis, Building Official

Details: Community Development Director John Eisler attended the Regular Session to provide an update on January and February departmental activity. In January, the Building Division issued 144 permits and completed 748 inspections, showing an increase compared to the prior year. Planning activity included 21 applications, with staff noting continued workload due to several large ongoing projects. Notable January activity included construction on the Brasada barn project. In February, building permits totaled 135, with 869 inspections completed, reflecting a slight increase in inspection activity over the prior month. Planning received 22 applications, with continued processing of significant projects, including the Harmony Towers/Verizon cell tower application, an aggregate mine comprehensive plan amendment, and the upcoming Hidden Canyon Phase 1 application scheduled for April. Additional updates included the City's economic opportunity analysis moving toward public release in April and continued site and code enforcement activity showing increased case volumes compared to the prior year. John also reported that the DLCD Goal 5 grant remains pending due to delays in new state administrative processes, but the project remains on track once funding paperwork is finalized. This item was an informational update; no action was taken.

9. IGA No. 057226-0, Regarding Psychiatric Security Review Board Tort Liability Assistance
Requester:
Eric Blaine, County Counsel

Details: County Counsel Eric Blaine attended the Regular Session to present an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County and the State related to the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB). The agreement would provide the County with access to additional tort liability support in situations involving individuals under PSRB jurisdiction who are receiving mental health services through the County's Community Mental Health Program or its subcontractors. The agreement is consistent with prior versions approved by the County and does not require any expenditure of County funds. Eric noted the County has never needed to utilize this resource to date. If approved, the County will coordinate with its subcontractor, BestCare, to execute a pass-through subcontract to ensure coverage under the agreement.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to approve intergovernmental agreement number 057226. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

10. Consider approval of lease-to-own contractual arrangement with Lease Servicing Center, Inc., doing business as NCL Government Capital, as a Sourcewell interstate cooperative procurement participating entity, and adoption of Order and Resolution 2026-12 regarding determination of need and authorization for acceptance.
Requester:
Eric Blaine, County Counsel
Presenter(s):
Christina Haron, Finance Director

Details: Finance Director Christina Haron attended the Regular Session to present the final lease documents for the purchase of four dump trucks previously approved by the Road Department on November 5th. The lease agreement is structured as a 7-year term at a 5.5% interest rate, financing approximately $1.158 million with annual payments of about $178,000, which have been included in the approved budget and forecasts. Christina and County Counsel Eric Blaine confirmed that no changes had been made to the previously presented financing terms and that the documents reflect final paperwork required to execute the lease. It was also noted that the trucks are being prepared for service, including repainting, at no cost to the County, and will be placed into operation once finalized.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to approve the resolution and order 2026-12. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes

Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to approve the master lease purchase agreement. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

Manager Report

Details: County Manager Will Van Vactor provided a brief report, noting that the March 25th work session has been canceled, and the Board will reconvene at the next regular meeting on April 1st. He provided an update on the budget process, stating that all departmental budget meetings have been completed and staff are now compiling information to develop the final budget recommendation in preparation for the May budget meeting. Will also noted ongoing work to finalize core service descriptions for presentation to the Board and public in April for final review and approval.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Hermreck provided an update expressing appreciation for staff work on the County's core services documentation, specifically thanking the County Manager for his efforts. She noted participation in several regional committees, including CYC, COHC, and COACT, with no substantive updates to report at this time. She also shared an update from a recent BurnBot demonstration, noting the technology was showcased for vegetation management; however, no active burning occurred during the demonstration.

Commissioner Barney had no update.

Commissioner Crawford reported attending a PLA2 meeting with the County Manager, noting continued progress on efforts to secure a supportive letter related to the project seeking road access donation from the BLM. He stated the meeting went well and that the County remains on track with the project, with continued coordination underway.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

11. None scheduled.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to Adjourn. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion.

Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, the meeting was **adjourned at 09:32 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Breyanna Cupp, Executive Assistant