

Crook County Board of County Commissioners Minutes of April 1, 2026, Regular Session

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of County Commissioners met in a Regular Session on April 1, 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; Finance Director Christina Haron; IT Manager Blaine Cheney; Natural Resources Manager Tim Deboodt; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; Road Superintendent Brad Haynes; HR Director Meghan McKee; Assessment Technician Elsie Ray; Craig Neher; Crystal Irish; Brittany Wofford; Gina Hallam; Extension Program Coordinator Carmin Shelton; Jessica Barnes; Jennie Brookhart; Raylee Ferguson; Michael Rebquin; Lily Looper; Sarah Sake; Louis Gerhardt; Larry Blanton; Ashley Thrasher; Rita Rhoden; Terra Tyger; Brian Carmack; Amanda Smith; Kaycee Weeks; Julie Thompson; Alyssa Herwell; Brittany Santucci; Stacy Hormel; Nick Hormel; Brittany Ziegler; and members of the public.

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

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

1. Approve Minutes

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to approve the minutes as presented. Brian Barney seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Hermreck expressed appreciation to Breyanna for her strong attention to detail and ability to accurately recall and correct recent information, noting the items were from the prior week. She also commended her for completing the work in a timely manner. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

Discussion

2. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Requester:

Terra Tyger, Regional Programs Manager at KIDS Center

Details: Regional Programs Manager at KIDS Center, Tara Tiger, attended the Regular Session to request that April be declared Child Abuse Prevention Month. Tara, joined by representatives from Mountain Star Family Relief Nursery, presented information on the collaborative efforts of regional organizations working to prevent child abuse and support families. She also discussed the services provided by Healthy Families of the High Desert, Kids Center, and Mountain Star, and how each contributes to making a difference in the community through prevention, intervention, and family support programs. The presentation included statewide and local statistics on child abuse and neglect, emphasizing the importance of prevention and early intervention. Community members were encouraged to participate through volunteering, advocacy, donations, and attendance at prevention-focused events.

Commissioner Crawford read the proclamation into the record, which is attached to the meeting packet for reference.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to accept the proclamation as read today. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

3. Request for Financial Support of Crook County Kids Club

Requester:

Ashley Thrasher, Executive Director of Crook County Kids Club

Details:

Executive Director of Kids Club Ashley Thrasher attended the Regular Session to present an overview of the organization and its role as a nonprofit after-school and out-of-school program serving Crook County families since 2008. She highlighted program operations at all three local elementary schools, serving approximately 175 students daily and over 200 enrolled students, with structured, screen-free enrichment activities designed to support student development. She discussed the program's impact on families, emphasizing its role in providing safe, reliable after-school care during critical working hours and supporting working parents by offering an affordable alternative to traditional childcare. Ashley also noted the program's workforce development impact through employment and training opportunities for local high school students. Additional information was provided on affordability, funding sources, and partnerships, including tuition, grants, private donations, and collaboration with Crook County School District. She shared program outcomes such as tutoring success rates, expansion efforts, and other initiatives including counseling support and parent engagement activities. Ashley emphasized the broader community impact of after-school programs in improving student outcomes, increasing engagement, and supporting working families. She concluded by thanking the Board for their support and reaffirming Kids Club's role in strengthening families and the community.

Commissioner Crawford expressed appreciation for the presentation and commended

the organization for consistently providing quality care and support to children in the community. Commissioner Hermreck expressed appreciation for the invitation to visit Kids Club and noted that she would be attending with Breyanna. She shared enthusiasm about participating as a guest and engaging with attendees during the visit.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to that we contribute \$10,000 to the Kids Club. Susan Hermreck seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

4. Fee Waiver Request for Central Oregon Pee Wee Rodeo Association

Requester:

Craig Neher, Central Oregon Pee Wee Association President

Presenter(s):

Kadee Keegan, Central Oregon Pee Wee Association Queen

Callie Holmes, Riley Nonella, Regan Nonella and other Contestants available

Details:

Central Oregon Pee Wee Rodeo Association (COPWRA) President Craig Neher attended the Regular Session to request a waiver of fairgrounds facility fees. Several youth participants spoke about their involvement in rodeo events and thanked the Board for its support. The COPWRA President, attending remotely, noted the organization is a nonprofit, volunteer-run association that hosts multiple events at the Crook County Fairgrounds and brings significant economic impact to the community by attracting 200–250 families per event.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to waive all the fees except for \$125, which would be given to the fairgrounds, so that it kind of keeps all the people in the rodeo very happy. Brian Barney seconded. Discussion: The board expressed appreciation to the youth participants for attending and confidently presenting, commending them for their efforts and representing the community well. They also noted the positive impact of rodeo events in the community and the pride in seeing local youth actively involved. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

5. Emergency Procurement of Fairgrounds Restroom Project

Requester:

Susan Hermreck, County Commissioner

Details:

Fair board member Larry Blanton attended the Regular Session and provided an update on the restroom renovation project at the fairgrounds riding arena. Phase 1 improvements, including repairs to drainage issues and full refurbishment of the men's

and women's restrooms with new ADA-compliant fixtures and finishes, are nearing completion and are expected to be finished within approximately 10 days. The project is anticipated to come in under the initial \$200,000 budget. Larry also outlined Phase 2 and proposed moving forward with Phase 3, which addresses additional restroom facilities and related structural issues, including water damage and mold concerns. Phase 3 is estimated to cost between \$100,000 and \$130,000 and would be funded through existing capital improvement funds, with remaining grant funds still available after completion.

Commissioners expressed support for the project, noting the importance of maintaining clean, functional facilities at the fairgrounds for the many events held throughout the year.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to approve in the matter of authorizing the emergency procurement of repairs and improvements to the fairgrounds cinder block restrooms, including plumbing and related features, order and resolution number 2026-14. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

Manager Report

County Manager Will Van Vactor provided several updates, beginning with recognition of the Facilities team for their after-hours work to complete projects while minimizing disruptions to county operations. He also acknowledged staff members who recently graduated from the National Association of Counties High Performance Leadership Academy and thanked Human Resources for supporting employee development opportunities.

Will provided an update on the budget process, noting that final recommendations are being completed and the proposed budget is expected to be available later in the month. He also reported on updates to the public records policy, including the appointment of Breyanna as Records Custodian, and noted that a revised policy will be presented to the Board for initial review at the next meeting.

Commissioner Updates

No Commissioner updates were provided.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

At 9:47AM the Board of Commissioners convened into Executive Session under the following statute(s): ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are

exempt by law from public inspection.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board of Commissioners convened back into Open Session, inviting members of the public into the meeting room

6. ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to Adjourn. Susan Hermreck 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 10:09 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Breyanna Cupp, Executive Assistant