Crook County Board of County Commissioners Minutes of May 6, 2026, Regular Session

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of County Commissioners met in a Regular Session on May 6, 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; Community Development Director John Eisler; Extension Office Service Lead Carmin Shelton; Public Health Modernization Manager Stephanie O'Neal; Landfill Director Jacquie Davis; Landfill Manager Aaron Reinhart; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; IT Manager Blaine Cheney; Administrative Assistant Mona Glade; Undersheriff Bill Elliott; Senior Planner Katie McDonald; HR Director Meghan McKee; Assessment Technician Elsie Ray; County Clerk Cheryl Seely; Road Superintendent Brad Haynes; Systems Engineer Chelsea Watson; Administrative Services Manager Katrina Weitman; Health Programs Coordinator Riley Martin; Programs Coordinator Senior Haley Morris; Sarah Beeler; Steve Beeler; Adam Mikulski; Karen Mikulski; Scott Johnson; Julie Thompson; Erica Haitsma; John Heylin; Stephen Gilday; Devon Nelson-Harmon; Frank Porfily; Darleen Rodgers; Michelle Dull; Patrick Orr; Beth Jay; Brenda Comini; Carol Benkosky; Steve Waring; Dean Harris; Crystal Irish; Ashley McCormick; Rita Brown; Twandy Byrd; Laura; Michael; Josue Ojeda; Murray; Laina; Lori Desjardins; Jessica Barnes; Quinn B; Lisa Flerchinger; Dick Zimmerlee; Carolyn Wilkinson; and members of the public.

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

Public Comment

Julie Thompson addressed the Board regarding Agenda Item No. 10 concerning the appointment of a hearings officer for a CUP matter. She asked whether public questions and discussion regarding the item would occur during the agenda item or during public comment. Staff clarified that public comment on the matter would be at the discretion of the Board, as the item was not a public hearing or ordinance matter. The Board indicated discussion and public comment could occur when the agenda item was addressed later in the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Crawford provided an overview of the consent agenda process, explaining that consent agenda items are typically matters previously discussed during work sessions and considered noncontroversial, allowing the Board to conduct business more efficiently. He also noted that members of the public may request additional discussion or clarification on specific consent agenda items during the public comment period, at which time the Board can remove an item for further consideration.

1. Approve Minutes

2. Approval of Order 2026-13 In the Matter of Amending a Gate Permit Agreement (Amending Order 2006-88; Extending the Term; Closing a Portion of Buck Creek Road)

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

3. Proclamation Declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month

Requester:
Katie Plumb, Health and Human Services Director
Presenter:
Katie Plumb, Health and Human Services Director

Details: Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb attended the Regular Session to address the Board regarding Mental Health Awareness Month and emphasized the importance of caring for mental health alongside physical health. She recognized local mental health providers, organizations, and community members who support behavioral health services throughout Crook County, including providers from St. Charles, Mosaic, BestCare, Rimrock, Prineville Counseling, and private practices offering specialized services. Plumb noted the importance of both prevention and treatment resources and expressed appreciation for the community's continued advocacy for expanded mental health services. Katie also acknowledged the role of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Oregon in bringing forward the Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation and introduced Devon Nelson Harmon, Crook County's NAMI representative. Devon Nelson Harmon spoke about NAMI Central Oregon's work providing free education and support groups for individuals and families affected by mental illness. She shared that NAMI has established a peer support group in Crook County that meets twice monthly and recently partnered with Rimrock Trails to launch a free family support group. Harmon thanked the Board for recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month and emphasized the importance of community leadership in promoting awareness, reducing stigma, and encouraging individuals to seek support.

Commissioner Crawford read the proclamation into the record that is in the meeting packet.

Commissioner Hermreck commented on ongoing mental health funding challenges, noting that the state is reducing mental health funding for Crook County by 17%. She stated that efforts are underway through the Central Oregon Regional Health Council to address the reduction and emphasized the significant impact the funding cut could have on local services. She also recognized the important role of law enforcement and jail personnel in responding to mental health crises, noting that city and county law enforcement officers are often the first responders interacting with individuals experiencing mental illness and serve as key partners in the community's behavioral health system.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to do the proclamation for Mental Awareness Month. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

Commissioner Barney expressed appreciation to Katie Plumb and Health and Human Services staff for their work supporting mental health services and the broader services they provide to the community. He thanked the department for its continued efforts and dedication.

4. Proclamation Recognizing Public Service Recognition Week
Requester:
Will Van Vactor, County Manager
Presenter:
Will Van Vactor, County Manager
Details: County Manager Will Van Vactor attended the Regular Session and presented information regarding Public Service Recognition Week, observed May 3–9, and highlighted the important role public employees play in supporting safety, health, infrastructure, and quality of life in Crook County. He recognized the efforts of numerous county departments, including the Sheriff's Office, Road Department, Public Health, Building Department, Landfill, Finance, HR, Legal, Library, Museum, and Fairgrounds, emphasizing both frontline and behind-the-scenes work that keeps county government operating effectively and responsibly. He noted the dedication of employees who provide emergency response, maintain infrastructure, support vulnerable populations, ensure public safety, and manage essential services for the community. Will also acknowledged the value of county staff and expressed appreciation for their ongoing commitment to public service. Commissioner Barney added recognition for the county administration team, specifically thanking Breyanna and Will for their work. Commissioner Crawford shared remarks about attending County College with Will Van Vactor, noting how impressed he was with the professionalism and effectiveness of Crook County staff compared to other counties across Oregon. He expressed pride in county employees and their service to the community. Commissioner Crawford also promoted the County College program offered locally in

the fall, encouraging community members to participate to learn more about county government operations and services.

Commissioner Crawford read the proclamation into the record that is in the meeting packet.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to approve the proclamation declaring May 3rd through the 9th, 2026, to be Public Service Recognition Week. Susan Hermreck seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

5. Reappointment of Sarah Beeler to the Flat Rock Road District
Requester:
Sarah Beeler, Flat Rock Road District President
Presenter:
Sarah Beeler, Flat Rock Road District President
Details: Sarah Beeler attended the Regular Session to appear before the Board to respectfully request reappointment to the Flat Rock Road District Board. She also provided an update on progress made by the district since its formation in September 2022. Sarah explained that the district's primary goal has been securing legal access from Juniper Canyon Road to the Flat Rock Road District area. She reported that the district recently received approval for an 80-foot-wide public right-of-way easement through a renewable 30-year lease agreement at no cost to the district. Sarah noted that additional steps are still required before road construction can begin, including coordination with the authorized officer and completion of professional engineering and development plans. She stated that improvements are needed to address roadway conditions impacting emergency vehicle access, particularly near a large dip off Juniper Canyon Road. Commissioners acknowledged the progress made and discussed the potential need for grants to assist with future engineering and construction costs, which Sarah estimated could range between $100,000 and $200,000. Sarah shared that the district has operated conservatively with its limited funding and anticipates pursuing grant opportunities to complete the project in the coming years.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to do the reappointment of Sarah Beeler to the Flat Rock Road District Order number 2026-19. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

6. Consideration of Financial Support for Heart of Oregon
Requester:
Patrick Orr, Conservation Programs Director at Heart of Oregon Corps
Presenter(s):
Patrick Orr, Conservation Programs Director at Heart of Oregon Corps
Details: Patrick Orr, Director of Conservation Programs with Heart of Oregon Corps,

attended the Regular Session to present an update on the Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps program and requested continued $5,000 funding support from the County for the upcoming 2026 season. He noted the 8-week summer program will begin the last week of June and will continue to provide paid employment opportunities for youth ages 16–18 in Prineville, working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and COIC on public lands projects. Patrick emphasized the importance of local public and private funding in sustaining the program and expressed appreciation for the County's past support. The Commissioners expressed support for the program, highlighting its value in providing youth with job experience, structure, and opportunities to build workforce skills. They noted the program's positive impact on community development, workforce readiness, and helping participants gain confidence and career direction. Commissioners also shared observations of program participants working in the community and emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for youth to gain skills and employment experience.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to motion to support Heart of Oregon for the sum of $5000.00. 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 Fee Waiver Request for Holiday Partnership
Requester:
Gwen Carr, Executive Director, Crook County Foundation
Presenter(s):
Gwen Carr, Executive Director, Crook County Foundation
Carol Benkoskey, CCF Board Member and Holiday Partnership Partner
Brenda Comini, Holiday Partnership Committee Member
Details: Crook County Foundation Chair Steve Waring attended the Regular Session to present information on the Foundation's history, programs, and community impact, including the Holiday Partnership program. He described the Foundation's origins in 1998 through collaboration between local founding partners and highlighted its ongoing work supporting fiscal sponsorships, arts and culture programs such as Picnic in the Park, and scholarships for local students. Steve provided an overview of the Holiday Partnership program, noting its long-standing role in supporting community members during the holiday season. He reported that in the previous year the program served approximately 250 households, providing gifts to 428 children, 188 seniors, and 35 individuals with disabilities. In addition, 315 households received meal vouchers, 286 households received food assistance, and 30 veteran households received food boxes. He explained that since 2020, the Crook County Foundation has administered the program following its transition from county oversight and emphasized the importance of donated space to support program operations. Steve requested that the Board consider waiving facility use fees for 12 days of program operations, totaling approximately $7,000, noting that these funds could instead be directed toward additional food and gifts for community members in need. He expressed appreciation for past County support and the importance of continued partnership. The Commissioners expressed support for the Holiday Partnership program, noting its

strong community impact. They acknowledged the contributions of volunteers and fairgrounds staff in helping facilitate the program and emphasized its value in supporting individuals and families throughout the community during the holiday season.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to approve the leasing of the Carey Foster Hall without fee for $7,056.00 for the holiday partnership. Susan Hermreck seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

8. Consider approval of Order and Resolution 2026-16 - Review and Reauthorize Reserve Funds
Requester:
Christina Haron, Crook County Finance Director
Presenter:
Christina Haron, Crook County Finance Director
Details: Finance Director Christina Haron attended the Regular Session to present Order and Resolution 2026-16, which fulfills the statutory requirement under ORS 294.346 to review and reauthorize county reserve funds at least every 10 years. Christina explained that the county's last comprehensive reserve fund authorization occurred in 2016, prompting a detailed review of all existing and historical reserve funds. The review identified numerous reserve funds that had been closed, redistributed, or reclassified between 2018 and 2023 as part of prior financial restructuring and account cleanup efforts across multiple departments, including the Sheriff's Office, Clerk's Office, Road Department, Community Development, Landfill, and General Fund. The resolution formally reauthorizes remaining active reserve funds, including the County Capital Asset Reserve, Clerk-related reserves (Notary, Recording, and Archive), Sheriff's Office reserves (Animal Seizure, Friends of K-9, and Fingerprinting), and the Court Facility Security Reserve. It also clarifies that several previously established reserve funds have been abolished or converted into restricted or departmental accounts, such as those related to landfill operations, equipment replacement, vehicle reserves, and other program-specific funds. The board acknowledged the extensive cleanup effort and thanked Christina for her detailed review and organization of county financial records, noting it supports improved clarity and compliance going forward.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to approve order and resolution 2026-16 in the manner of reviewing and reauthorizing the reserve pursuant to ORS 294. 346. Susan Hermreck seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

9. Public Hearing to Consider Republic Services Request for Rate Increase of 6.5%
Requester:

Erica Haitsma, General Manager
Presenter(s):
Erica Haitsma, General Manager
Dan Strandy, Finance Manager
John Heylin, Municipal Sales Manager
Details: County Manager Will Van Vactor attended the Regular Session and outlined the proposed approach for the public hearing on the Republic Services rate increase. He recommended beginning with a brief staff report, then opening the public hearing, allowing Republic Services to present first, followed by public comments from attendees both in person and online. He noted that, depending on testimony received, the Board could close the public hearing and determine whether enough information had been presented to make a decision or if additional information would be needed. Will then summarized the proposal, explaining that Republic Services is requesting a 6.5% rate increase under the existing franchise agreement. The agreement anticipates a target profit margin of 8–12%, and based on previously presented financial information, the requested increase is intended to align operations within that range. It was also noted that the proposal had been previously reviewed during a work session and a prior regular meeting in April, where supporting financial documentation was provided.

Erica Haitsma General Manager for Republic Services in Central Oregon, provided a high-level overview of the company's 2025 financial results and the proposed 2026 rate adjustment request. Erica reported 2025 revenue of approximately $2.9 million, reflecting a year-over-year increase of $336,000 driven by prior approved rate adjustments and approximately 2.4% volume growth. Total operating costs for 2025 were approximately $2.6 million, representing a year-over-year increase of $213,000. Key cost drivers included disposal fees, labor, fuel, vehicle maintenance, insurance, lease expenses, depreciation, call center costs, corporate allocations, and management/administrative expenses. Franchise fees for 2025 totaled approximately $296,000, resulting in an estimated contract margin of 11%. Erica then presented the 2026 rate request of 6.5%, which is intended to account for inflation (3.5% CPI-U West Coast), wage increases (3%), and a 5.8% increase in disposal fees. She stated that the proposed adjustment is expected to maintain operations within the contractual target margin range of 8–11%, with an anticipated margin of approximately 10%. She concluded by noting that the requested rate increase is designed to align with contractual requirements and underlying cost pressures, and invited questions from the Board.

Commissioner Crawford opened the public hearing at 9:47 a.m. There were no comments received from members of the public in the room or online regarding the proposed rate increase.

Commissioner Crawford noted that he had been reviewing the financial information with Finance Director Christina Haron raised concerns that projected growth in Crook County was not fully incorporated into Republic Services' rate model. He referenced approximately 11.4% population growth in the county over the past five years and stated that the county remains one of the fastest-growing areas in the nation. He explained that, when factoring in an estimated average annual growth rate of 2.28%, the county's analysis suggested an adjusted figure closer to 3.25% would be needed to maintain alignment with a 10% margin. Commissioner Crawford stated that incorporating this growth consideration could place the proposed margins higher than the anticipated range and indicated he would be more comfortable with a lower rate adjustment as a result. He also emphasized the importance of identifying efficiencies and controlling costs, noting that residents are experiencing similar financial pressures. Commissioner Crawford concluded by indicating openness to further discussion with other members of the Board before proceeding and closed the public hearing at 9:49 a.m.

Will Van Vactor summarized the financial discussion from the public hearing regarding the Republic Services rate increase. He explained that Finance's analysis considered both rate adjustments and anticipated customer base growth tied to Crook County's population growth. Will noted that Finance evaluated what level of rate adjustment would be needed to achieve the County's target margin range of 8–11% (or 8–12%), factoring in an assumed average population growth rate of 2.28% based on five-year census trends. He stated that, under this combined analysis, a rate increase in the range of approximately 3.25% to 4.1% would be sufficient to achieve an estimated margin of roughly 9.7% to 10.5%. He further clarified that Republic Services' original proposal did not appear to incorporate expected revenue growth from population increases, focusing primarily on rate adjustments. In contrast, the County's analysis included both rate changes and anticipated growth in the customer base. Following the summary, the Board discussed next steps and briefly considered procedural direction before moving into a short recess.

Following a brief recess, Republic Services responded that population growth does not directly translate to equivalent volume or revenue growth in their operations. Erica Haitsma, General Manager for Republic Services, explained that recent trends show relatively flat or declining waste volumes, and that any increases in volume also bring corresponding increases in operating costs such as disposal fees, labor, fuel, and maintenance. She further noted that revenue growth does not flow directly to profit due to these variable costs, and that volume forecasts are inherently uncertain. Finance Director Christina Haron clarified that the County's analysis already incorporated variable cost considerations and that the projected margin range would still allow for anticipated cost increases while remaining within the contractual margin threshold. Following discussion, a Commissioner indicated a preference for a 3.25% rate increase with the expectation that Republic Services identify operational efficiencies, with the understanding that performance can be reassessed in the following year if actual results deviate significantly from projections.

No additional public comment was received from attendees in person or online, and the public hearing was closed.

Following discussion, the Commissioners expressed support for a reduced rate increase based on the Finance Department's analysis and the economic impact on residents. Commissioners agreed that a 3.25% increase would place Republic Services within the contractually allowed margin range while recognizing current financial pressures on the public. County Manager Will Van Vactor and legal counsel discussed the process for formalizing the rate increase through a future order of the Board. Counsel advised that the Board could approve the increase by motion during the meeting and later adopt a formal order documenting the decision and effective date.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to approve a rate increase for Republic Services effective on July 1, 2026, in the amount of 3.25%, and we will adopt an order on May 20th. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

Following the vote, the Board noted that additional public comment would be accepted on the next agenda item, although no further public input was required for the completed rate hearing.

10. Order 2026-18: Appointment of Hearings Officer for CUP Record Nos. 217-15-000115-PLNG & 217-22-000540-PLNG

Requester:

John Eisler, Community Development Director

Presenter(s):

John Eisler, Community Development Director

Details: Community Development Director John Eisler attended the Regular Session to present Order 2026-18 regarding the appointment of a hearings officer for Planning Record Nos. 217-15-000115-PLNG and 217-22-000540-PLNG. Eisler explained that following a March 11, 2026, Planning Commission hearing, Central Oregon LandWatch and neighboring property owners requested initiation of a modification or revocation proceeding for conditional use permits associated with the matter. Due to concerns regarding procedural fairness, due process, and potential bias, staff recommended the appointment of an independent hearings officer to oversee the proceedings and determine whether sufficient evidence exists to initiate modification or revocation actions. John stated that the County's existing contracted hearings officers did not possess the full authority of the Planning Commission necessary to modify or revoke a conditional use permit. The proposed order would appoint Joshua Soper of Beery, Elsner & Hammond as hearings officer, granting him the authority required under the County Code. John noted Soper's extensive land use experience, including prior service as county counsel for Coos County. John further explained the proposed process, including notice requirements, evidence submission timelines, opportunities for response from all parties, and the potential for oral hearings if requested. He emphasized that the process was intended to ensure transparency, fairness, and compliance with Oregon land use law so that any final decision would withstand potential appeals before LUBA or the Court of Appeals. The Commissioners discussed the complexity of Oregon land use procedures and the importance of following all required legal steps to avoid jeopardizing future enforcement actions or appeals. County Counsel Eric Blaine emphasized that the hearings officer would serve as a neutral decision-maker responsible for weighing evidence presented by all parties rather than advocating for any specific outcome. Public comments received from Julie Thompson and Adam Mikulski regarding the hearings process, prior county actions, enforcement concerns, and procedural fairness. Staff and Commissioners responded by reiterating the importance of due process, transparency, and the use of an independent hearings officer to ensure an objective review of all evidence and arguments.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to approve order 2026-18 in the matter of appointing a hearing officer for planning record number 217-15-000115 planning and 217-22-000540 planning. Susan Hermreck seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

11. Public Hearing for Comprehensive Plan Amendment; Record No. 217-25-000400-PLNG

Requester:
John Eisler, Community Development Director
Presenter(s):
John Eisler, Community Development Director
Details: Community Development Director John Eisler presented Ordinance 358 regarding a comprehensive plan amendment to add 4.1 acres to Crook County's inventory of significant mineral and aggregate resource sites (Planning Record No. 217-25-000400-PLNG). The Board convened the first of two public hearings, with the second hearing scheduled for May 20, 2026. Staff outlined applicable approval criteria, hearing procedures, appeal rights, and requirements related to ex parte contacts and testimony. Commissioners disclosed no conflicts of interest or ex parte communications, and no challenges to Board participation were raised. The hearing process was explained, including testimony procedures for staff, agencies, the applicant, supporters, neutral parties, opponents, and applicant rebuttal. Public participation procedures for both in-person and remote attendees were reviewed. Applicant representative Quinn Burkett appeared remotely on behalf of the applicant. Technical audio issues prevented Zoom audio from functioning properly, and staff coordinated an alternative phone connection to continue participation. The Board proceeded with hearing logistics and confirmed that testimony would continue according to the established hearing procedures.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to read by title only. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

The Board formally opened the public hearing for Ordinance 358, concerning a proposed amendment to the Crook County Comprehensive Plan Goal 5 inventory to add a new 3C aggregate resource site and adopt a site-specific environmental, social, economic, and energy (ESEE) analysis and program. Community Development Director John Eisler presented an overview of the application, explaining that the request was not for a conditional use permit, but rather to add approximately 4.1 acres to the County's existing aggregate resource inventory. The proposed addition is adjacent to an existing quarry site near O'Neil Highway and would apply to any future operator seeking a conditional use permit for mining activity. Staff reviewed the Goal 5 process for post-acknowledgment plan amendments, including evaluation of the resource's significance, identification of conflicting uses, analysis of economic, social, environmental, and energy consequences, and development of a program to achieve Goal 5 compliance. Staff reported that testing showed the basalt resource met Quality 1 standards and exceeded the state threshold for a significant aggregate resource, with an estimated 1.7 million tons of material in place. Potential conflicts and impacts discussed included nearby EFU uses, noise, dust, traffic, wildlife impacts, and surface and groundwater protection. Staff explained that mitigation measures and operational details would be addressed further during any future conditional use permit process. The Planning Commission recommended designation of the site as a 3C resource site, balancing protection of the aggregate resource with surrounding land uses through operational standards and impact mitigation measures. The Commissioners asked limited questions, including whether neighboring property owners had expressed opposition during the Planning Commission hearing. Staff stated that only one member of the public testified previously, primarily regarding where aggregate material may ultimately be transported and sold. Applicant representative Quinn Burkett testified remotely on behalf of the applicant. He stated the expansion areas were previously disturbed under earlier mining operations and that the application was intended primarily to bring the site into compliance with county and state requirements. He noted that no new mining activity was proposed in some portions of the expansion area and emphasized that the quarry's canyon-like location naturally mitigates noise and dust impacts. He also stated the applicant had coordinated with DOGAMI and U.S. Fish and Wildlife regarding operational compliance and protection of a nearby golden eagle nesting area.

No additional testimony was provided in favor, opposition, or neutral position. The applicant declined rebuttal and offered to answer future questions as needed.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to close this portion of the public hearing to reconvene for the second public hearing on May 20th, 2026, at 9am. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

<u>Manager Report</u>

12. Review and Update of the Public Records Request Policy

Requester:
Will Van Vactor, County Manager
County Manager Will Van Vactor reported that the public records request policy item originally listed on the agenda was postponed after updated revisions were received the previous day. The postponement will allow both the Board and the public additional time to review the proposed changes before further discussion and consideration. The policy will be included in a future meeting packet and may be discussed during an upcoming work session before being brought back for action at a regular meeting. Will also noted that budget season is underway and announced several upcoming budget committee meetings, including the Crook County Budget Committee meeting on May 11th at the Justice Center, the Ag Extension Service District Budget Committee meeting on May 11th at 6:00 p.m. at COCC, and the Road Agency budget meeting on May 18th at the County Annex. The public was encouraged to attend any meetings of interest.

Commissioner Updates

13. Letter of Support for 70th Anniversary of Lawrence Welk Show
Requester:
Susan Hermreck, County Commissioner

Commissioner Hermreck shared that she received an email requesting recognition of the long-running television program "The Lawrence Welk Show," which aired from 1957 to 1982. Commissioner Hermreck reflected on memories of watching the show as a young bride, noting that in her household, interruptions during the program were not tolerated. Commissioner Barney added that his family also regularly watched the show when he was young, recalling their old black-and-white television and Lawrence Welk's signature introduction, "a one and a two." The commissioners shared lighthearted remarks about ballroom dancing, polka music, and college PE dance classes, creating a humorous and nostalgic discussion.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved to approve the letter of support. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

14. Letter in Support of Basics Act
Requester:
Susan Hermreck, County Commissioner
Commissioner Hermreck presented information regarding the federal Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act, a bipartisan bill intended to improve federal transportation programs and expand county access to formula funding for transportation projects. She noted that Crook County maintains 472 miles of public roads, 111 bridges, and 1,676 culverts, including approximately 230 miles of paved roads and 242 miles of gravel roads. Commissioner Hermreck emphasized that additional federal funding would provide significant benefits to the county's

transportation infrastructure. She also presented a proposed letter of support for the BASICS Act (H.R. 7437) addressed to Congressman Cliff Bentz, Senator Jeff Merkley, and Senator Ron Wyden, and requested the Board’s support for signing and submitting the letter.

MOTION: Susan Hermreck moved for us to go ahead and send to the appropriate representatives, the Crook County Board of Commissioners' support of bridges and safety infrastructure for community success. Brian Barney seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

Commissioner Crawford had no update.

Commissioner Barney had no update.

Public Comment

Adam Mikulski asked questions regarding the timeline and notification process for the upcoming hearings officer proceedings, including whether the public would receive more advance notice than the standard 14 days and whether guidance would be provided on what testimony or evidence would be relevant. Staff responded that the hearings officer would establish the schedule once contacted and that hearing dates and related information would be included in the official notice distributed to interested parties. Staff also explained that guidance had already been provided in the Planning Commission staff report regarding issues unlikely to carry weight based on applicable case law, and encouraged participants to focus testimony on the criteria for modifying or revoking a conditional use permit. Additional clarification was provided that notice would be sent to property owners within the applicable notification area and to individuals who testified and provided contact information during the March Planning Commission hearing. Staff encouraged attendees to share information within the community as appropriate.

Executive Session

At 11:01AM the Board of Commissioners convened into Executive Session under the following statute(s): ORS 192.660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions; and ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.

15. ORS 192.660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to direct staff to correspond with the counterparty as discussed in the executive session. Susan Hermreck seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney. Motion Passed 3-0.

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

No formal motion or action was taken on the item. County Counsel indicated that additional information would be gathered, and the matter would be brought back for further discussion at a future meeting.

MOTION: Seth Crawford 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 12:06 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Breyanna Cupp, Executive Assistant