Crook County Board of County Commissioners Minutes of June 10, 2026, Work Session

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of County Commissioners met in a Work Session on June 10, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Administration Conference Room, located at 203 NE Court Street, Prineville, OR 97754.

<u>Work Session Agenda</u>

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; Legal Assistant Alex Solterbeck; County Counsel Eric Blaine; Finance Director Christina Haron; Budget Manager Jamie Berger; Public Health Modernization Manager Stephanie O'Neal; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; IT Manager Blaine Cheney; Systems Engineer Chelsea Watson; Road Superintendent Brad Haynes; Natural Resources Coordinator Tim Deboodt; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; Emergency Manager AJ Crawford; Administrative Division Manager Stephanie Wilson; Undersheriff Bill Elliott; BestCare CEO Rick Treleaven; BestCare Program Director Angela Cumming; Julie Thompson; and members of the public.

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

<u>Public Comment</u>
None

<u>Discussion</u>
1. May 2026 Crook County Treasurer's Report
Requester:
Christina Haron, Finance Director
Presenter(s):
Christina Haron, Finance Director
Details: Finance Director Christina Haron attended the Work Session and presented the Treasurer's Report for the end of May. She reviewed county bank and investment account balances, noting that overall balances remained relatively consistent from the prior month, with only minor changes primarily related to deposits in transit, outstanding checks, and tax turnover activity. She noted that May represents the final tax turnover period for the year, and balances are expected to decrease moving forward. Christina also reviewed the comparison between pooled cash balances in the general ledger and corresponding bank and investment accounts, followed by a breakdown of cash allocations by fund across the County. Additional reporting included investment allocations by type and a comparison of book value versus market value. She reminded the Board that the County holds investments to maturity, which reduces

risk and provides more predictable returns, though unrealized gains may not fully reflect market fluctuations. Christina concluded with an update on interest rate trends, noting minimal recent movement, and shared that staff met with Government Portfolio Advisors to discuss investment strategy and potential adjustments within the County's investment policy to better take advantage of current yield opportunities. She concluded by offering to answer any questions.

2. Signature Request for FLAP Grant Applications – Puett Road, Mill Creek/Reservoir Road, and Willard Road
Requester:
Brad Haynes, Road Superintendent
Presenter(s):
Brad Haynes, Road Superintendent
Details: Road Superintendent Brad Haynes presented three federal grant applications requesting Board signatures of support. The applications were described as competitive, zero-match grant opportunities totaling approximately $14.9 million across three transportation projects, with submissions due June 12th. The first project, the Mill Creek Road grant (approximately $5.29 million), would fund paving improvements extending from the gravel-to-pavement transition point to the forest boundary, improving access into adjacent National Forest lands. Staff noted strong coordination with U.S. Forest Service representatives, who support the project. The second project, the Puett Road Bridge grant (approximately $4.38 million), would replace an undersized and deteriorating 13-foot culvert with a proposed 100-foot bridge to improve flood resilience, protect roadway infrastructure, and enhance fish passage. Staff noted the current structure is failing and vulnerable to high-flow weather events, and that NEPA and related environmental review would be supported through a consulting engineering firm. The third project, the Reservoir Road (BLM) grant (approximately $5.3 million), would improve the corridor from the Deschutes County line to Highway 27, a key regional route serving recreational access to the Prineville Reservoir area. Brad noted coordination with the Bureau of Land Management and indicated that project delivery would be completed through ODOT due to federal requirements and inspection standards.

Brad explained that ODOT delivery requirements contribute to higher project costs and confirmed that consulting support is being used to strengthen and finalize grant applications. Following discussion, Commissioner Hermreck provided verbal approval and authorization for staff to proceed with submission, noting support for placing signatures on the applications for processing.

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

3. Signature Request for Barbwire Pit Crush
Requester:

Brad Haynes, Road Superintendent
Presenter(s):
Brad Haynes, Road Superintendent
Details: Road Superintendent Brad Haynes attended the Work Session and requested approval to proceed with awarding a contract for barbed wire crushing operations following a competitive bidding process. Staff reported that 12 vendors attended the pre-bid meeting and 4 formal bids were received. The lowest responsive bidder was identified as 4R Equipment LLC at $662,250. The project includes crushing approximately 75,000 tons of material from a leased pit that has been under development for approximately 18 months. Staff noted that the lease agreement for the pit was finalized after an extended negotiation process and will support long-term material needs for County road maintenance. The material supply is intended to serve Road District 1 (Bear Creek) and Road District 2 (Paulina), improving the availability of road aggregate resources in the upper county area. Staff emphasized the importance of securing the contract at current pricing conditions to avoid anticipated future cost increases. County Counsel Eric Blaine requested Board authorization to award the contract to 4R Equipment LLC and proceed with execution of contract documents outside a formal Board meeting, consistent with standard County procurement procedures following an RFP process. The Board was advised that required bonding and contract documentation would be completed prior to execution.

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to award the contract to 4R, LLC as the lowest responsible bidder and to authorize signing the contract outside of the meeting. Susan Hermreck seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

4. PrineTime Internet Service Agreement
Requester:
Blaine Cheney, Director Information Technology
Presenter(s):
Blaine Cheney, Director Information Technology
Details: Director of Information Technology Blaine Cheney attended the Work Session and requested purchasing approval for a renewed multi-year connectivity contract following the expiration of the County's prior agreement. He reported that staff evaluated four options, including three major carriers (TDS, Lumen, and LS Networks), but none were able to meet the County's required service needs. Blaine recommended renewing with the County's existing provider under a new 3-year contract. The proposed agreement provides improved terms and results in an estimated 14.8% cost savings compared to the prior contract, totaling approximately $18,360 in savings over the life of the agreement. Because the total contract value exceeds departmental and administrative purchasing authority thresholds, Board approval is required. After discussion, staff confirmed the item could be placed on the June 17th consent agenda for formal approval.

5. IGA with Multnomah Education Service District for Medicaid Administrative Claiming
Requester:
Katie Plumb, Health & Human Services Director
Presenter(s):
Katie Plumb, Health & Human Services Director
Details: Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb attended the Work Session and requested renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Multnomah Education Service District to continue Medicaid administrative claims processing services for the County. Staff noted that the agreement has been in place for approximately a decade and represents the County's primary option for this type of administrative claims processing support. The program is estimated to generate approximately $150,000 in annual revenue, depending on staffing levels and the amount of qualifying administrative claim work performed. Katie indicated that the agreement has remained generally stable over time, with prior versions including provisions referencing the use of the Multnomah Education Service District for these services. Katie also confirmed that the current renewal is for FY2027. Following brief discussion and clarification regarding the duration and revenue assumptions, the Board expressed support for moving the item forward, with no immediate action required at the meeting and placement on the June 17th consent agenda.

6. Presentation on Status of Negotiations with PacificSource on Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Successor Contracts - Consideration of Approval
Requester:
Eric Blaine, County Counsel
Presenter(s):
Rick Treleaven, BestCare Treatment Services
Melissa Thompson, BestCare Treatment Services
Details: Rick Treleaven Community Mental Health Director for Crook County and CEO of BestCare Treatment Services, presented the proposed PacificSource Community Mental Health Program (CMHP) contract. He explained that BestCare negotiates the CMHP contract on behalf of Crook County as the designated community mental health provider. While BestCare also maintains a separate non-CMHP contract with PacificSource, negotiations for the CMHP contract were extensive and lasted approximately four months.

Mr. Treleaven stated that BestCare recommends approval of the contract with reservations, noting concerns that the agreement represents an approximate 10% reduction in funding for community mental health services despite PacificSource reporting positive financial performance. He also expressed concerns regarding contract reductions across community mental health providers, elimination of performance-based contracting provisions, staffing reductions within PacificSource, declining organizational stability, and ongoing issues with claims processing that have impacted payments. Rick explained that an 18-month contract term was pursued to provide greater predictability and stability amid significant personnel changes within PacificSource. Although a shorter-term contract was considered, it would have required immediate renegotiation and included larger funding reductions. The contract also contains provisions allowing termination with appropriate notice if circumstances warrant.

Discussion included concerns about PacificSource's long-term commitment to the Central Oregon region, potential legal remedies related to claims processing issues, and the need for regional planning regarding future coordinated care organization options. Staff indicated that, despite the funding reductions, current projections show Crook County's behavioral health services remaining financially sustainable without immediate service reductions. Commissioner Susan Hermreck noted that many of the concerns outlined had been ongoing for several months and supported the recommendation as the best available option under current circumstances.

Following discussion, the Board agreed that additional review of the contract was appropriate before approval. Rick indicated that a one-week delay would not create significant hardship, and the Board directed that the contract be placed on the June 17th consent agenda.

7. Review Crook County School District MOU- Shelter

Requester:

Casey Daly, Fairgrounds Manager

Presenter(s):

Casey Daly, Fairgrounds Manager

Details: Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly attended the Work Session and presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Crook County School District to formalize the use of the Fairgrounds as a sheltering or mass care facility during emergencies affecting the school district. Casey noted that the Fairgrounds has previously served in this capacity informally and that the agreement would establish a formal framework for future emergency response needs.

County Counsel reviewed a provision related to media communications, which designates the School District as the primary source for public statements and media inquiries during any activation of the agreement. Commissioners discussed the provision and agreed it was reasonable given the School District's responsibility for students and staff during an emergency. It was noted that any major incident would likely operate under a unified command structure involving the School District, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies, ensuring coordinated public messaging.

Commissioners expressed confidence in the County's working relationship with the School District and agreed that any future concerns could be addressed through amendments to the agreement if necessary. Consensus was reached to move the MOU forward to the June 17th consent agenda for approval.

8. FY26 Fairgrounds Personnel Changes
Requester:
Will Van Vactor, County Manager
Presenter(s):
Will Van Vactor, County Manager
Details: County Manager Will Van Vactor attended the Work Session and provided an informational update regarding staffing adjustments at the Fairgrounds. Staffing levels will increase from 5.12 FTE to 5.54 FTE, representing a net increase of 0.42 FTE. The change includes a small increase in Administrative Assistant Senior hours to allow for training overlap and additional extra-help staffing to support seasonal operations and event coverage. Despite the increase in staffing allocation, the Fairgrounds personnel budget will decrease by approximately $7,000. The update was provided to keep the Board informed of changes to personnel allocations previously discussed during the budget process. Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly confirmed the adjustments are intended to support summer event operations, noting that the High School Rodeo was currently underway at the Fairgrounds. No action was requested or taken by the Board.

Manager Report
County Manager Will Van Vactor provided a brief reminder that County offices will be closed on Friday, June 19, in observance of the holiday. No other items were reported.

Commissioner Updates
Commissioner Barney reported no updates.

Commissioner Crawford reported no updates.

Commissioner Susan Hermreck reported on her participation in a regional tour in Tillamook and Clatsop Counties. She shared that the first day focused on dairy operations, water quality, fish hatcheries, and agricultural practices, providing valuable educational opportunities and discussions. The second day included forestry-related topics, where participants learned about the timber harvest process, including planning timelines, environmental buffers, endangered species considerations, and logging operations. Commissioner Hermreck noted that the tour brought together representatives from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and county commissioners from across the state. She described the experience as highly informative and one of the most beneficial tours she has attended. She also noted that she would be returning home later that day.

Public Comment
None

Executive Session
At 9:43AM 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; ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection; and ORS 192.660(2)(e) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

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

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 votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

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

MOTION: Brian Barney moved to execute the easement amendment as discussed in the executive session. Susan Hermreck seconded. No discussion. Seth Crawford votes Aye, Susan Hermreck votes Aye, Brian Barney votes Aye. Motion Passed 3-0.

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

It was determined that no action was needed at this time. Staff was directed to gather additional information and bring the matter back for further discussion at a future meeting.

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 10:06 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Breyanna Cupp, Executive Assistant