Crook County Board of County Commissioners Minutes of August 26, 2026, Work Session

Be It Remembered that the Crook County Board of County Commissioners met in a Work Session on August 26, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Administration Conference Room, located at 203 NE Court Street, Prineville, OR 97754.

Work 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; Assessor Jon Soliz; Fairgrounds Manager Casey Daly; HR Director Meghan McKee; Assessment Technician Elsie Ray; Library Manager Kim Bales; Community Health Worker Shelby Fisher; Building Official Randy Davis; The Honorable Daina Vitolins; Health and Human Services Director Katie Plumb; Public Health Modernization Manager Stephanie O'Neal; Natural Resources Coordinator Tim Deboodt; Housing Works Executive Director Lynne McConnell; Republic Services General Manager Wes Davis; Municipal Sales Manager John Heylin; CEO of BestCare Melissa Thompson; Director of BestCare Kate Stanley; Julie Thompson; Lorian Maxham; Jessica; Prineville Review; Dawne Clayton; and members of the public.

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

Public Comment
None

Discussion
1. Consider Approval of an Updated Standard Parenting Time Plan for Crook County
Requester:
Katie Slattery, Trial Court Administrator
Presenter(s):
The Honorable Daina Vitolins
Details: Judge Vitolins, Chair of the Local Family Law Advisory Committee, attended the Work Session and presented proposed updates to Crook County's standard parenting time plans. The updated plans are designed to provide more flexible, age-appropriate parenting arrangements that support regular and meaningful contact with both parents when safe and appropriate. The plans include age-based schedules for children from birth to 12 months, 12–36 months, and 36 months and older, as well as a long-distance plan for parents living more than 120 miles apart. Judge Vitolins noted that the plans were developed with input from local attorneys and court staff and have been approved by the Presiding Judge. The Board expressed support for the updated plans and directed staff to prepare an order and the item would be placed on the

consent agenda next week.

2. Order 2026-38 In the Matter of the Appointment to Housing Works
Requester:
Cleydy Tejada, Housing Works Executive Leadership Assistant
Presenter(s):
Lynne McConnell, Housing Works Executive Director
Details: Lynne McConnell, Executive Director of Housing Works, attended the Work Session and presented the proposed appointment of Greg Munn to the Housing Works Board as Crook County's next representative. Lynne explained that the position is becoming available due to the retirement of longtime Board Chair Laura Kraske-Cooper. Housing Works and Crook County conducted a public recruitment process, and Greg Munn was the only applicant to complete the full process. Greg was recognized for his extensive public service, longtime connection to Crook County, and current work with NeighborImpact, a partner organization of Housing Works. The Housing Works Board unanimously recommended Greg for the appointment. The Board directed that the appointment order be placed on next week's consent agenda.

3. Introduction of Wes Davis, New General Manager, Republic Services
Requester:
John Heylin, Municipal Sales Manager
Presenter(s):
John Heylin, Municipal Sales Manager
Wes Davis, General Manager
Details: Wes Davis, the new General Manager for Republic Services in Central Oregon, attended the Work Session to introduce himself to the Board and provided an overview of his role overseeing solid waste and recycling services for Crook County. Wes expressed his commitment to serving the community and requested feedback from the Board regarding current services and areas for improvement. He also offered to provide tours and ride-alongs to County officials and staff to better understand solid waste and recycling operations.

Commissioner Hermreck emphasized the importance of continued service at the Paulina transfer station, particularly during the May–October period when the station operates twice monthly, noting the service is highly valued by the community and helps reduce the use of burn barrels and related fire risks. Commissioner Crawford shared concerns regarding ongoing local service issues, including dumpster and collection problems, billing concerns, improper disposal at the landfill, and difficulties for customers in reaching someone who can effectively resolve issues. Wes welcomed the feedback and indicated he would follow up on these concerns.

4. BestCare Introduction, Youth Drop-In Center Update, and PacificSource Update
Requester:
Kate Stanley, Program Director-BestCare Treatment Services
Presenter(s):

Kate Stanley, Program Director-BestCare Treatment Services
Melissa Thompson, Chief Behavioral Health Officer
Details: Melissa Thompson, CEO of BestCare, attended the Work Session to provide the Board with an update regarding ongoing challenges with PacificSource and payment for behavioral health services. Thompson reported that BestCare continues to dedicate two full-time employees to addressing payment issues and has filed an individual complaint with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). She noted that the other Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) served by PacificSource are experiencing similar payment and billing issues. The seven affected counties are working toward filing a joint complaint with OHA in addition to BestCare's individual complaint. Melissa also reported that OHA and local legislators have followed up on the concerns, although the payment issues continue. She noted that PacificSource's Central Oregon CCO recently ranked second to last in statewide CCO rankings, a significant decline from its previous rankings. Melissa stated that BestCare will continue to keep the Board informed of any significant developments.

Kate Stanley, Director of BestCare, introduced herself to the Board and provided an update on the development of a proposed Youth Drop-In Center in downtown Prineville. The center is intended to serve youth and young adults ages 14–25 and provide a safe, welcoming space for community youth, including those who are not BestCare clients. Proposed services and activities include peer support, homework space, social activities, cooking and budgeting skills, and access to food, laundry, and shower facilities. Kate reported that BestCare is working to finalize a lease for the proposed location and hopes to have the center operational by the end of the year. She explained that youth and young adults would have separate hours to promote safety and appropriate age groups. The Board discussed the importance of establishing clear expectations and behavioral guidelines while maintaining an opportunity to support youth who may be struggling. The Board also expressed interest in visiting a similar program in Deschutes County and discussing the proposed center with downtown businesses before moving forward. Kate agreed to provide information regarding the planned October tour and keep the Board updated as the project develops.

5. FY27 School Based Health Center Agreement
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 to provide an update on the School-Based Health Center Agreement, a multi-party agreement between Crook County Health, Mosaic Community Health, and the school district to provide services at the Crook Kids Clinic. Katie explained that the agreement underwent a major revision during the previous fiscal year and is now being renewed for Fiscal Year 2027 with minimal changes. The agreement provides approximately $130,481 in funding to Mosaic Community Health to implement services at the School-

Based Health Center. The funds are budgeted pass-through dollars from the County's Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) agreement with the Oregon Health Authority. The agreement has been reviewed by all parties, including County Legal Counsel, the school district, and Mosaic Community Health. The Board indicated the agreement would be placed on the following week's consent agenda for approval.

6. Discuss Amendment to Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program
Requester:
John Eisler, Community Development Director
Presenter(s):
John Eisler, Community Development Director
Details: Building Official Randy Davis attended the Work Session to provide an update on the County's $96,000 federal grant for the Transportation System Plan (TSP) Safety Action Plan, awarded in 2024. Due to turnover at the federal level, the County lost contact with the grant administrator and was unable to obtain an extension within the original timeframe. The proposed contract amendment would extend the grant period through June 30, 2027, allowing the County and its contractor, Parametrix, to complete the project. The Board expressed support and indicated the item would be placed on the following week's consent agenda for approval.

7. Community Development Activity Update for July 2026
Requester:
John Eisler, Community Development Director
Presenter(s):
John Eisler, Community Development Director
Randy Davis, Building Official
Details: Building Official Randy Davis attended the Work Session and provided an update on Building, Planning, On-Site, and Code Enforcement activities. Building activity included 16 new homes, 48 commercial projects, and 96 residential permits, with 147 homes currently under construction and approximately 800 inspections completed during the month. Randy also provided updates on several larger projects, including the data center and CV International. Planning received 30 applications, including 22 site plans and two road approaches, while On-Site processed 22 permits, including eight residential evaluations and nine construction permits. Code Enforcement opened four cases and closed seven, with land use, building, septic, and waste-related violations comprising the primary areas of activity. Randy also discussed upcoming staffing needs within the Building Department due to the planned retirements of two highly experienced inspectors. Staff are working with the County Manager and Human Resources to begin recruitment efforts and potentially bring a new inspector on board early enough to allow for training and certification. Randy noted that finding candidates with the necessary certifications and willingness to become cross-certified in multiple areas will be important to maintaining department capacity.

8. Consider Order 2026-36 In The Matter of Extending the Duration of the Crook County Equal Employment Opportunity Plan, and whether to include on the September 2nd agenda
Requester:
Eric Blaine, County Counsel
Presenter(s):
Eric Blaine, County Counsel
Details: County Counsel Eric Blaine attended the Work Session to discuss the County's Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEOP), which periodically evaluates County workforce demographics and hiring practices to identify potential unlawful discrimination. Eric noted that the County's current plan reviewed 112 categories, with only three showing statistical significance, and only two of those involving County employees. The previous plan did not identify evidence of unlawful discrimination. The current EEOP is set to expire on September 30, and the proposed order would extend the plan for an additional six months to allow staff adequate time to develop a successor plan. The Board indicated support for the extension and directed that the item be placed on the following week's consent agenda.

9. Vector Control District Update
Requester:
Will Van Vactor, County Manager
Presenter(s):
Will Van Vactor, County Manager
Details: County Manager Will Van Vactor attended the Work Session to provide an update on the Board's direction from the previous meeting to explore hiring a third-party firm to review concerns related to the Vector Control District. Three potential firms have been identified, and staff, with assistance from Breyanna, are working to obtain cost estimates, so the Board can make an informed decision regarding the selection of a firm. The Board discussed the importance of maintaining the District's effective mosquito control services while also addressing concerns regarding administrative processes, including public meetings, public records, and responsiveness to the public. Staff will continue gathering information and report back to the Board with additional details at a later date.

<u>**Manager Report**</u>
There was no manager report presented.

<u>**Commissioner Updates**</u>

<u>Commissioner Hermreck</u> reported attending the Eastern Oregon Women's Economic Summit on Monday and Tuesday. She noted that the summit included comparisons between Oregon and Idaho and shared that she found the previous year's summit more informative than this year's event.

<u>Commissioner Crawford</u> reported attending the Eastern Oregon Women's Economic

Summit and noted that he found value in learning about differences between Oregon and Idaho. He also highlighted the benefit of connecting with other commissioners and legislators and having the opportunity to share ideas and engage in discussions.

Commissioner Barney had no report.

Public Comment

Lorian Maxham expressed concerns regarding the process for contractors to request dumpster containers, noting that calls were being routed to a call center outside of Oregon where staff were unfamiliar with the Prineville area. She stated that having contractors communicate with a local representative would improve the process.

Wes Davis, General Manager for Republic Services in Central Oregon, acknowledged the concern and stated that he had received similar feedback. He explained that the Republic Services office in Prineville is staffed during business hours and that a local email is available for customers to reach local staff. Wes also offered to make himself personally available to help resolve issues and encouraged community members to contact him directly when problems with the call center or service arise.

Executive Session

10. None scheduled.

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 09:51 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Breyanna Cupp, Executive Assistant