

WEEKLY BUSINESS SESSION – March 9, 2016

5:30 p.m. – Anne G. Basker Auditorium
600 N.W. Sixth Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

Present: Cheryl Walker, Chair; Keith Heck, Vice-Chair; and Simon Hare, Commissioner; Wendy Watkins, Recorder

These are meeting minutes only. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words.

Pursuant to notice through the media and in conformance with the Public Meeting Law, Cheryl Walker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and started out with a moment of silence honoring the passing of Nancy Reagan.

Items discussed were as follows:

1. PROCLAMATION:

- a. In the Matter of Proclaiming the Week of March 7 – 11, 2016 as Boys & Girls Club Week** *(One original Proclamation filed with the County Clerk)*

Commissioner Walker read and presented the Proclamation to Diann Gilbertson, President of the Boys & Girls Club, and Diann introduced 2015-16 Student of the Year Katie Phillips. Katie said she has been a member of the Club for eleven years and gave a brief presentation on how the Boys & Girls Club has shaped her to be a better person.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS IN CONSIDERATION OF:

BOARD DECISIONS UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS WERE MADE AFTER PUBLIC COMMENT WAS RECEIVED

- a. Approval of 2016-17 Board of Commissioners' Goals**

Commissioner Walker explained the Board has refined their goals to reflect the ideals that the Commissioners have and wish to work towards.

3. REQUESTS/COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: *(Each person will be given three (3) minutes to speak)*

Dale Matthews, Grants Pass, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the State Fiscal Emergency.
Mike Jones, Grants Pass, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the State Fiscal Emergency.
Stuart Senate, Grants Pass, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the State Fiscal Emergency.
Ray Smith, Cave Junction, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the State Fiscal Emergency.
Robert Moore, Grants Pass, said he owns Oregon Books and would like the County to take a position of buying locally **(Exhibit A)**.
Larry West, Grants Pass, spoke in support with the 2016-17 Board of Commissioner's Goals.
Catherine Austin, Cave Junction, spoke about her dissatisfaction with the State Fiscal Emergency.
Andrew Miller, Josephine County, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the lack of Public Safety.
Bill Hunker, Merlin, spoke about Economic Development Funds being used for Public Safety.
Allen Ehr, Josephine County, spoke about his dissatisfaction with an article written in the Sneak Preview.
Tony Minton, Wolf Creek, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the State Fiscal Emergency.
Rycke Brown, Grants Pass, spoke about her dissatisfaction with the lack of Public Safety.
Jennifer Roberts, Grants Pass, spoke about her dissatisfaction with the lack of Public Safety.
Diane Mackin, Grants Pass, spoke about her dissatisfaction with the lack of Public Safety.
David Smith, Colonial Valley, spoke about her dissatisfaction with the lack of Public Safety.
Jean Mount, Grants Pass, read and submitted Public Safety Services – Josephine County 3-8-16 **(Exhibit B)**.
Marie Arthur, Grants Pass, said she would like the budget process to be more transparent.
Mark Seligman, Selma, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the State Fiscal Emergency.
Jim Christian, Williams, said he would like for someone to come up with an idea to solve the County's public safety crisis.
Sandi Cassanelli, Merlin, spoke about her dissatisfaction with the State Fiscal Emergency.
Elizabeth Herney, Grants Pass, spoke about her dissatisfaction with the lack of Public Safety.
Archie Lidey, Josephine County, spoke about his dissatisfaction with the lack of Public Safety.
Viken Noukoyden, Grants Pass, spoke about Economic Development Funds being used for Public Safety.
Mark Collier, Grants Pass, spoke about the Sneak Preview article regarding the Fielder Dam removal.

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 2(a)

Commissioner Hare made a motion to approve 2016-2017 Board of Commissioners' Goals and amended item 1(b) to reflect the corrected date of 6/30/17, seconded by Commissioner Heck. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. **Provider Agreement between Josephine County and Options For Southern Oregon** (*One original Agreement filed with the County Clerk and one original Agreement returned to Juvenile Justice*)
- b. **Findings of Fact and Decision – Comprehensive Plan and Zone Change for Timm Andersen, 6160 Monument Drive** (*One original Findings of Fact and Decision filed with the County Clerk*)
- c. **Order No. 2016-005; In the Matter of Revision to Administrative Policies and Procedures for Josephine County for the Purpose of Conducting Business on a Daily Basis: Section B, Financial/Budget** (*One original Order filed with the County Clerk*)
- d. **Resolution No. 2016-021; In the Matter of an Appointment to the Josephine County Mental Health Advisory Board** (*One original Resolution filed with the County Clerk*)
- e. **Resolution No. 2016-022; In the Matter of a Reappointment to the Emergency Medical Services Board** (*One original Resolution filed with the County Clerk*)

Board Discussion and Action:

Commissioner Heck made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Agenda Items 4(a) through 4(e) as listed, seconded by Commissioner Hare. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 3-0; Commissioner Hare – yes, Commissioner Heck – yes, and Commissioner Walker – yes.

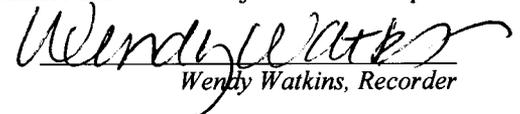
- 5. **OTHER: (ORS 192.640(1))** “. . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”)

None reported.

6. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Walker mentioned the Growers Market has started.

Weekly Business Session was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.


Wendy Watkins, Recorder

Entered into record:

Exhibit A – OregonBooks

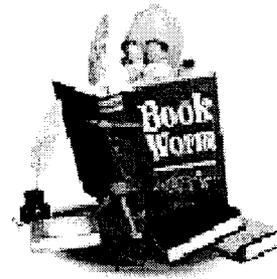
Exhibit B – Public Safety Services – Josephine County 3-8-16



OregonBooks



www.oregonbooks.com



March 9, 2016

Josephine County Commissioners
Cherryl Walker, Keith Heck, and Simon Hare

What makes Grants Pass a community with charm and personality is its community of small businesses. We lost a lot of those businesses when Walmart came to town when we unknowingly welcomed them with open arms and even gave them economic help. I believe the count of closed business was close to 32 within a year. However, Walmart did place some significant property on the tax rolls and does employ a number of people.

Another 1,000-pound gorilla is devastating businesses across America including Grants Pass and Josephine County, and instead employing local people and adding to the property tax rolls it is closing storefronts and creating unemployment.

Amazon's goal is not to sell books but to sell everything, without regard to any moral business practice. On many fronts, small businesses are asking State and Federal Attorney Generals offices to investigate Amazon's business practices for violations of Oregon's and the United States of America antitrust laws. I strongly believe that Amazon's abuse of its dominance and growing monopolization has had a negative impact on free expression and the health of America's book industry, including a chilling effect on the diversity of, and access to, books and information. It is also expanding into all areas of commerce at an alarming rate.

A Civic Economics study, *Amazon and Empty Storefronts*, estimates that in Oregon in 2014, Amazon sold \$494.8 million worth of retail goods statewide. That is the equivalent of 348 retail storefronts, 1.2 million square feet of commercial space, which might have paid \$3.1 million in property taxes, and more than \$3.1 million in revenue lost to state and local governments. Even counting all the jobs in Amazon distribution centers, Civic Economics estimates that Amazon sales produced a net loss of 3,029 retail jobs in Oregon. As your local bookstore, I can state with firsthand knowledge that Amazon has cost Grants Pass and Josephine County the equivalent of 4.5 full time jobs in just the books selling business and reduced occupancy by 3,200 square feet.

As other businesses are also being impacted at an increasing pace, we are asking local governments and businesses to adopt a "buy local" policy. When considering the impact local businesses have in supporting property taxes, employment, contributions directly to the community, and keeping the uniqueness of the community against the possibility of any savings by buying outside the community, it becomes an easy choice.

Robert Moore

Exhibit A

WBS

3/9/16

Suncatcher Books, LLC dba Oregon Books & Games
150 NE E ST., Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541 476-3132 -- books@oregonboks.com

Here's What Amazon Just Did:

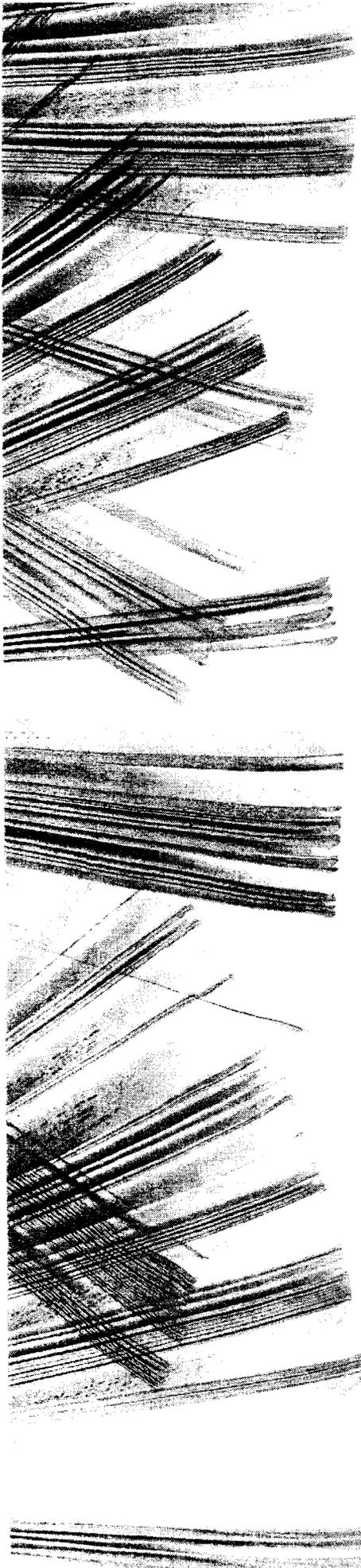
- 1** In 2014, Amazon avoided paying \$625 million in much-needed local and state tax revenue in 23 states and Washington, D.C., all while selling \$44.1 billion worth of retail goods nationwide.
- 2** In 2014, Amazon's retail sales displaced the equivalent of more than 30,000 storefronts and 107 million square feet of commercial space, estimated to be worth \$420 million in property taxes for local and state governments.
- 3** In 2014, by avoiding sales tax, and quashing the viability of local bricks-and-mortar retail, Amazon deprived thousands of communities of tax revenue necessary for schools, roads, and police and fire safety, as well as of vibrant downtowns and main streets.
- 4** In 2014, Amazon operated 65 million square feet of distribution space, employing both full-time workers and part-time and seasonal workers, yet still, Amazon's dominance produced a net loss of 135,973 retail jobs nationwide.
- 5** In 2014, Amazon's sales and operations accounted for a loss of more than \$1 billion in revenue to state and local governments.
- 6** Amazon received the benefits of local grants, tax breaks, road improvements, and other government considerations to build its distribution centers, notwithstanding the net loss in jobs, property taxes, and downtown vitality.
- 7** Amazon achieved dominance over the book industry equivalent to Standard Oil's share of the refined oil market just before it was broken up in 1911.*
- 8** Amazon has cheapened the value of both printed and electronic publishing, and dampened opportunities for new authors and diverse ideas, by discounting books to lower than wholesale price and bullying publishers and its marketplace sellers.
- 9** In our state, Amazon accounts for a sales tax gap of \$_____ and the displacement of _____ square feet, which is the equivalent of _____ retail storefronts, and _____ jobs.
- 10** In 2015, Amazon's total sales and operations revenue increased by 20%, meaning the above 2014 figures are likely to be grossly understated.

Where We Spend Shapes Where We Live—CHOOSE LOCAL



See more at
www.indiebound.org/spotlightamazon

Sources: Civic Economics, "Amazon and Empty Storefronts: The Fiscal and Land Use Impacts of Online Retail," 2014
*Paul Krugman, "Amazon's Monopsony Is Not O.K." (New York Times, 2014)



Thanks for shopping at

Here's What You Just Did:

- 1 You kept dollars in our economy.** For every \$100 you spend at one of our local businesses, \$52 will stay in the community.
- 2 You embraced what makes us unique.** You wouldn't want your house to look like everyone else's in the U.S. So why would you want your community to look that way?
- 3 You created local jobs.** Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for our neighbors.
- 4 You helped the environment.** Buying from local business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation, less packaging, and products that you know are safe and well made, because we stand behind them.
- 5 You nurtured community.** We know you, and you know us. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains and online retailers.
- 6 You conserved your tax dollars.** Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money available to beautify our community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong—right here in your community!
- 7 You created more choice.** We pick the items we sell based on what we know you like and want. Local businesses carry a wider array of unique products because we buy for our own individual market.
- 8 You took advantage of our expertise.** You are our friends and neighbors, and we have a vested interest in knowing how to serve you. We're passionate about what we do. Why not take advantage of it?
- 9 You invested in entrepreneurship.** Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.
- 10 You made us a destination.** The more interesting and unique we are as a community, the more we will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This benefits everyone!

A Cooperative Message
From this Bookstore and



Love Your Local

Public Safety Services- Josephine County - 3-8-16

Oregon House Bill 3453 provides that the governor may proclaim a public safety fiscal emergency when fiscal conditions compromise a county's ability to provide a minimally adequate level of public safety services.

How is the minimal level of public safety services determined? What are the required and mandated services?

Josephine County does not have 24- hour rural patrol services, a detective division, or juvenile justice center as it had in past years. The County relies on other agencies - mainly Oregon State Police Department-Grants Pass Public Safety -to respond to county emergencies and conduct investigations due to the lack of these services in the county.

Emergency calls have delayed response time which can be life threatening, for example-- if OSP has to travel from Central Point to Cave Junction, Merlin, Wolf Creek, or O'Brien. What is the length of delay in response time to a major crime? What is the number or percentage of crimes that do not have any response to a 911 call? How many nonemergency calls do not have a response?

Investigations of crimes are delayed or may not occur in Josephine County due to the lack of a detective division and reliance on the Oregon State Police Department. What is the approximate time delay for an investigation of a major crime when compared to a few years ago when the county had a detective division? Do we have any property crimes investigated by the county? Is an investigation usually made by Oregon State Police? Is there a contractual arrangement with Oregon State Police for additional police services to Josephine County? What is the additional cost and is OSP willing to continue providing these additional public safety services to the County?

Josephine County closed it's Juvenile Department building & services a few years ago. The closure has resulted in increased youth crimes, substance abuse and homeless youth. The County rents 2 juvenile beds in other counties, but adequate services are not provided. What previous county services are no longer provided?

All property crimes should be investigated but, due to of lack of staffing, many crimes are not investigated. Citizens are asked to complete a complaint form online. Property crime loss is relegated to an unimportant status and may not receive any follow up or resolution. But citizen's loss of personal property is very important and needs a prompt response and a report by an officer. How does the present system compare to previous years when Josephine County had additional staffing?

The lack of 24- hour rural patrols means that an officer may not be available to respond, even to life threatening 911 calls. As a citizen I find this unacceptable; it creates an unwanted fear to know that no one may be available to respond. The criminal also knows of the scarce public safety services and statistics show an increase in crime.

Exhibit B
WBS
3/9/16

I think updated report(s) to the Commissioners from professionals in the criminal justice system (Sheriff- public safety, juvenile) & fiscal area are needed to determine if a minimally adequate level of service are being provided to citizens in this county. This report should detail services lost due to decreased funding, Result on the loss of services, and statistical data should be included as available. Professional report(s) & (analysis) in addition to citizen reports of crimes & concerns should be included.

No ballot question to the public is needed as public safety is Not an Opinion Poll.

Jean Mount
Grants Pass, OR