

**CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MEETING**

Friday, August 18, 2017 – 2:00P.M.

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex
94235 Moore Street, Gold Beach, Oregon

www.co.curry.or.us

**MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEETING
(Audio Recording only)**

Emergency Meeting – August 18, 2017 - Emergency Declaration Chetco Bar Fire

PRESENT: Chair Tom Huxley, Commissioner Sue Gold, Counsel John HuttI, Legal Assistant, Brenda Starbird and Facilities Maintenance Director, Eric Hanson in audience

Chair Huxley, called the meeting to order at 2:09P.M. He said this was an emergency meeting regarding the Chetco Bar Fire, noting all the smoke coming down the Chetco River and Kalmiopsis Wilderness. He further stated the emergency negated the 24 hour notice meeting law.

Counsel HuttI introduced Facilities Maintenance Director, Eric Hanson who was present in the audience.

Counsel HuttI questioned his role in this event. Hanson said he was the only ATC FEMA Post Event Inspector for Structures after fire, windstorms, floods and earthquakes in the County. Counsel HuttI said he had received a call at noon from Commissioner Gold that the Chetco Bar fire had jumped the Chetco River and was now threatening residences, life and property. HuttI said he confirmed this with Sheriff Ward. He said approximately 20-40 residences had been evacuated. The American Red Cross had set up emergency shelter in the Brookings Gymnasium. He said the Board needed to call the Emergency Command Center during today's meeting, stating there was also a Conflagration Resolution that was being requested for the Board to take action on today.

Chair Huxley read the emergency declaration verbatim into the record.

Counsel HuttI said if Board finds to make a motion to approve, he would direct staff to submit this to the Governor's Office, and asked Board to have a phone conference with Fire Marshall. Commissioner Gold motioned to authorize this resolution as it was just read. Chair Huxley seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0. (Let it be reflected in the minutes that Commissioner Boice pre-signed the Resolution prior to heading down to Brookings, Oregon that afternoon.) Counsel HuttI instructed staff to immediately scan and email the approved resolution to OEM and the Governor's Office. (Staff left the room).

HuttI reviewed the Conflagration documents. There was an attempt to call the Sheriff and the Fire Marshall (Mr. Watson) approximately 12 minutes into the meeting. A briefing was taking place with the Emergency Team, according to DJ Storns, Sheriff's Administrative Secretary, who said she would pass on the information and have them return the call.

Sherrie Ward was in the audience, and said she was only there as an observer, not in a working capacity...but did update the Board on a couple items Curry Community Health (CCH) Department had been doing.

Chair Huxley recessed at 2:34P.M. noting the meeting would reconvene when contact was made to the Fire Marshall.

Chair Huxley came out of recess at 2:55P.M. stating they were still waiting on a call from Fire Marshall and Sheriff Call.

Counsel Huttl stated he would try to call him again at 3:00P.M. and would leave a message if they were unsuccessful.

Chair Huxley expressed the need for clarification on the paperwork for filling out the conflagration documents.

Commissioner Gold questioned whether they could direct Counsel to do this?

Counsel Huttl said this could be delegated to Counsel. Huttl reviewed ORS's and Statutes with the Board. Huttl was able to make phone contact with Captain Espinoza now on the line with the Board of Commissioners. Huttl explained they were calling for Chief Watson. Espinoza said they just had a fire brief and attempted to find the Chief. Huttl informed Espinoza that he contacted sheriff Ward and stated the Sheriff didn't need anything else from the Board at this time. Huttl said if they didn't have a call back from the Chief by 3:15, they would adjourn. Espinoza updated the Board re homes in the non-protected zones, and what the Commissioners role would be. Huttl reviewed statutes with Espinoza saying they would call back within moments. Updates on the fire from Espinoza were that the fire behavior was unpredictable and unstable. He said the weather predictions were tough and making the fire move in directions not expected. Fire could be moving at approximately 5 miles in 24 hour stretch. Could go beyond area already evacuated. Going to evacuate down to Loeb State Park and move people out. Counsel Huttl said Board would issue brief press release and asked Espinoza if they were working with press as well. Espinoza said they were and there would also be a joint press release today at 5:00P.M. (Press and Forest Service). Counsel Huttl directed Staff to send (email) copy of signed declaration to sheriff and Espinoza.

3:08P.M. Chief Jim Watson on speaker phone. Huttl stated Counsel had been provided request forms and materials for the conflagration. Counsel Huttl reviewed statutes re local and city fire protection districts. He questioned what statute/authority they were operating under. Fire Chief read the Letter from State Fire Marshall stating the Private lands in unprotected areas and how they don't have authority out there to fight the fire. He stated there was no district Fire Chief here, so Board would call and request conflagration. Huttl Cited ORS 476.530. Huttl said the Board had been provided with blank forms with no place for signature. State Fire Marshall Jim Watson said he would fill out the forms. Huttl asked what they needed from the Commissioners. Chief stated the Declaration of Conflagration was needed from the Board so they could start getting local resources together and begin sending resources up that way. Huttl stated the Sheriff was our Emergency Manager and the point of contact with the incident command team. Huttl asked Sheriff, who was also present with the Fire Chief, if Board declared Conflagration and delegated authority to Sheriff to assign forces and equipment in coordination with Chief Watson, would that be enough. Sheriff Ward said he was no fire fighter. Huttl asked Chief if he was comfortable enough. Chief Watson said he was. Huttl said then he would ask the Board to vote on that, and they (ES Team) would fill out the forms. Huttl reiterated the declaration of fire emergency and fire conflagration request would delegate to sheriff and fire chief to complete necessary forms and make necessary contacts further stating it was too technical for Board to fill out.

There was further discussion with the Board, County Counsel and Sheriff Ward regarding who would fill out necessary conflagration forms. Counsel Huttl reiterated the Board was trying to streamline the process so they (the ES team) can work directly with the state folks. Sheriff indicated they had their hands full with evacuations and road closures. Don't

have time to fill out a bunch of forms. HuttI said there could be sub delegation language if necessary. Sheriff said Commissioner Boice was there as well. HuttI said Boice will still need the necessary information to fill out.

Huxley said the Fire Chief or higher needs to fill out the forms because they contain operational information and the Board doesn't have knowledge of that info. HuttI reiterates again that the Board was not trying to make more work for them, just trying to streamline the process.

HuttI said a motion would be needed to declare a fire emergency and request for conflagration and designate Sheriff Ward and Chief Watson as county designees to execute all necessary orders, stating that would be the wording for the Resolution.

Recess at 3:27P.M. for HuttI to draft Designation for Conflagration, authorizing certain individuals as contacts.

3:49P.M. Chair Huxley announced the meeting was back in session. After conversations with Chief Watson, Sheriff Ward, Captain Espinoza, Counsel HuttI and Board of Commissioners it was agreed to authorize conflagration Emergency assistance in a matter of declaring emergency R2017-19 (presented) read in its entirety by Chair Huxley. State of emergency fire conflagration – sheriff , OEM and Fire Chief Jim Watson authorized to take all steps necessary....communication, requesting, directing...may delegate authorized powers as necessary. This concluded reading of resolution.

Chair Huxley said that was quite clear to Board.

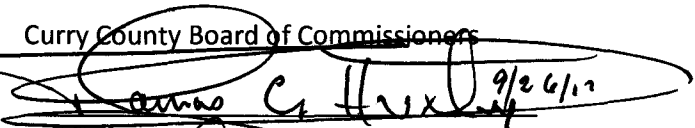
Commissioner Gold motioned to approve resolution R2017-19 declaring emergency fire conflagration. Chair Huxley seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

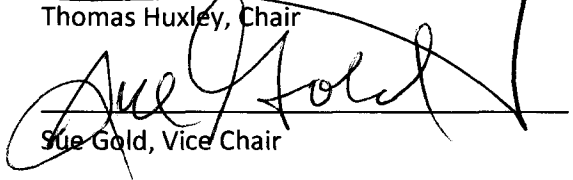
Counsel HuttI said this concluded the meeting and the resolution would be sent to Sheriff and Governor and the Board would issue a brief press release. HuttI said the Board had done everything it could. Chair Huxley reiterated that Chief Watson would fill out the forms because of the specifics required. HuttI reaffirmed there was broad enough language in the declaration for him to do that. HuttI directed staff to communicate to Sheriff, and others, that we would request copies of all pertinent documents.

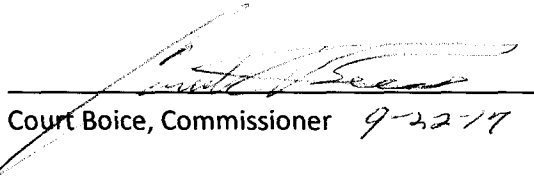
Chair Huxley adjourned the meeting at 3:56P.M.

Approved this 20th day of September, 2017

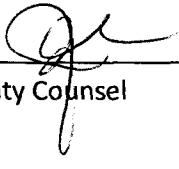
Curry County Board of Commissioners


Thomas Huxley, Chair


Sue Gold, Vice Chair


Court Boice, Commissioner 9-22-17

Approved as to Form:



John Hutt, County Counsel