



**Board of Commissioners' County Counsel Meeting
April 8, 2000 ~ 10:30am ~ Room 214**

4/8/2020 - Minutes

**1. To Watch A Live Stream Of This Meeting, Click The Link Below Or Go To
Www.klamathcounty.org**

2. Call To Order & Those Present

Commissioner Morris, Commissioner DeGroot, Commissioner Boyd, Marc Henderson/County Counsel, Sandy Cox/Admin Staff, Rick Vaughn/Tax Collector

3. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting

Commissioner Morris approves minutes from March 30, 2020 meeting

4. Eternal Hills Cemetery

Commissioner DeGroot updates the Board, Bankruptcy Trustee is considering abandoning the property. There may be an opportunity for the County to obtain the property for a minimal price. Thinks it would be best for the County to step up and acquire the property and get it back in good shape. Marc Henderson comments about the liability of auguring the property in the condition it is in now. Commissioner Morris questions Vaughn about maintaining the property. Vaughn responds that short term they could do something. Commissioner DeGroot's intent is to only have the property short term and getting it back in private hands ASAP. Commissioner Boyd asks Commissioner DeGroot about his community contacts that were at one point willing to help get the property up to par, how would those community members feel about investing in the property to then be sold at a later date. Commissioner DeGroot responds, doesn't feel that would be an issue because their interest is to improve the property for the better of the community. Commissioner Boyd would like Commissioner DeGroot to have that particular discussion with the Community members to make sure everyone understands that the County may not retain the property. Vaughn questions specific issues with property. Commissioner DeGroot will talk to the individuals that are interested in helping get the property up to par.

Commissioner Boyd asks if the County does not step up and the property is abandoned what will happen? Commissioner DeGroot thinks it would go to the creditors that have claims, but the Bankruptcy Court is looking into that. Commissioner Morris suggests rather than actually acquiring the property, have the County help put people in the community to work fund that. Commissioner's DeGroot and Boyd indicate this is a million dollar project. Commissioner Morris says we would still have that issue if we own it. Commissioner Boyd says no, that Commissioner DeGroot has a group of community members willing to help fix it up so long as the County is in charge. Commissioner DeGroot indicates the plan is for the property to be abandoned tomorrow. Commissioner Morris would like to know why the State doesn't step in? Vaughn suggests making an offer, clean up the property then facilitate a sale to the one of the local mortuary's. Commissioner Boyd asks about the 700 - 800k of funds being held in trust? Discussion that those funds could be used to clean the property up now, but then the continuing maintenance would be an issue. Further

discussion that there is interest in pieces of the business but not the maintaining Cemetery itself. Commissioner Boyd also brings up the issue that there are a lot of creditors that may lose out and are not getting a fair shake if the County acquires the property. Further discussion that the County could not do anything about pre-paid services but could definitely honor the plot/land obligations. Commissioner Morris again asks that if the County does nothing then wouldn't the State have to step up. Commissioner DeGroot states again he feels strongly that the County should step up and make things right as much as we can. **Commisisoner DeGroot motions to have Rick Vaughn work worth with our contracted realtor to make an offer of 5k, Commissioner Morris seconds.** Commissioner Boyd suggests going straight to the selling realtor rather than involving another realtor, suggestions to ask our contract realtor if she would like to be involved. Commissioner Morris would like everyone to be mindful that a large portion of County citizens may not be happy that the County is taking on this huge issue. Discussion that we need to make the citizens aware of the entire situation and we are fixing blighted property. **Unanimous vote. Approved.** Funds will come from the property management blighted fund

5. Lease Agreements - COVID

Commissioner Boyd explains that the County is required to set up a temporary morgue for COVID-19 body storage and transportation if necessary. Counsel drafted these lease agreements for the refer van and step van trailer as temporary morgue. Commissioner Morris suggests empowering Counsel to work with parties to tweak agreements and bring finalized documents back to Board for approval. Henderson reviews specifics of leases regarding funding. Commissioner Boyd indicates there is a fund at Public Health to fund this, however we need to track it under COVID-19. Board consensus is Counsel should work with parties to tweak agreements and bring finalized documents back to Board for approval and signature.

6. Other County Business

Marc Henderson addresses the Board regarding communication we received from former HR director this morning. Commissioners agree that Counsel should draft a response citing County policy.

7. Adjournment

11:12am

Audio recordings of all proceedings are available at the County Commissioners' office. The meeting facility is handicap accessible. Persons needing materials in alternate format or communication access, should telephone this office at 541-883-5100 (voice/TDD) or the ADA Coordinator at 541-883-4296 at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Klamath County Commissioners' Weekly Calendar is subject to change without notice. 305 Main Street 2nd Floor, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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