

**WALLOWA COUNTY  
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS  
STATE of OREGON**

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STACEY FREGULIA, E.A.

CHAIRMAN SUSAN ROBERTS  
COMMISSIONER TODD NASH  
COMMISSIONER PAUL CASTILLEJA

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September 13, 2017

**Wallowa County Board of Commissioners (BOC)  
Minutes of Special Public Hearing on the County Library  
10:00 a.m. / C.J. Thornton Conference Room  
Wallowa County Courthouse**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** CHAIR SUSAN ROBERTS  
COMMISSIONER PAUL CASTILLEJA

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** COMMISSIONER TODD NASH

**STAFF PRESENT:** STACEY FREGULIA, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**OTHERS PRESENT:** SEE ATTACHED

**10:00 a.m.** – Chair Roberts called the meeting to order. Stating that in compliance with ORS 357.621 this is the second of two required hearings. She reiterated that the budget committee had decided to close the Library due to the lack of funding. She stated that today the Board will hear from anyone who wishes to make any further comments and then hear from the committee. Chair Roberts turned the floor over to any who wished to speak. No one came forward. Floor was then turned over to Autumn Wilburn and the Wallowa Valley Library Foundation.

**Ms. Autumn Wilburn** stated that she is the Chair for the Wallowa Valley Library Foundation that was reinstated in late June after the first hearing that was held for the closure of the Wallowa County Library. The Board consists of Bonnie Marks Kirsten Rohla, Mike Crawford, Lorien James, Maggie Holcomb, Tamera DaSilva, and Kay Sawin. She explained that at their initial meeting it was decided that the best option would be to form a county wide library district with a tax to fund it. They also are aiming to be put on the ballot in May of 2018. Ms. Wilburn also stated that The Wallowa Valley Library Foundation applied for and received a Library Services and Technology Act Grant through the Oregon State Library. She stated that with this grant funding they have hired a consultant to help formulate the necessary items needed in order to be on the ballot that are required by Oregon Revised Statutes. She briefly explained all the steps that are needed in order to be placed on the ballot in May of 2018; form an economic feasibility study, have all city councils pass a resolution to allow their citizens to vote for the formation of the district, and get at least fifteen percent of the district areas signatures for the petition to the County Clerk's Office 180 days prior to the May 2018 election. Ms. Wilburn introduced Ruth Metz who is the Library Foundations consultant that will help gather all the necessary items needed to form a Library District. Ms. Wilburn then turned the floor over to Ms. Metz.

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**Ruth Metz** stated that she has been involved in library services for a long time. She stated that her main role is to put together the economic feasibility study that the Oregon Revised Statutes require for new special districts. She then briefly explained what information is needed to form the economic feasibility study and how a special district is formed in accordance with the Oregon Revised Statutes. One other thing that would need done is to gather the resolutions from the cities within the county. These resolutions would not just allow the citizens to vote but would also allow the city to be inside the boundary of the district. Once the Wallowa Valley Library Foundation have all the resolutions from the cities, the boundary for the district can then be determined. Ms. Metz stated that she had to come up with the optimum library district for the county. She stated that in her decision she didn't just look at the county library but also at the city libraries as well due to the services that the county provides that the cities do not. The tax rate that Ms. Metz then came up with for the district to function was \$0.65 per \$1,000.00, this tax rate would be the long term solution for the library services in the entire county to sustain operations over time.

Ms. Metz explained that while looking at all libraries here in the county the new tax rate would allow for more hours, more materials, and more programs offered through the library services. The amount of revenue that the taxes would bring in would be somewhere near \$495,000.00 with an operation total of around \$476,000.00. The only way the figures would work is if all the cities and the county continue to provide the facility support and if all cities were included inside the boundary of the district. Ms. Metz reiterate the steps needed to pass a special district and how they would elect the Board for that district. Chair Roberts noted that it is the same as a school district. The citizens inside the boundaries elect their own board members for the district, the taxes are collected from property taxes in, and the Board can request a transfer from the County Treasurer after money has been received during the tax season. It was asked that there be some clarification on what the cities would need to pass for their citizens to be able to vote on this matter. Ms. Metz clarified that the cities would need to pass a resolution stating that they would allow their citizens to participate in a vote for the district and also be included in that district if it were to pass by the vote of the people.

It was noted that the Wallowa Valley Library Foundation need to hold public meetings to ensure questions from the citizens are answered and the citizens get to voice their concerns and opinions.

Ms. Wilburn reiterated the time frame and what all is needed to be handed in to the Clerk's Office by November 6, 2017 in order to have it be put on the May 2018 ballot.

Chair Roberts stated that the County needed to hold two hearings according to the Oregon Revised Statutes in order to withdraw all funding for the Wallowa County Library and this hearing today is the second of those two. It was noted in the first hearing that the county would continue to support the Library with 16 hours in the main Library and four hours each in the outlined libraries. The county had stated that they would continue this funding through the month of September unless the County saw that there was concrete effort in trying to create a district. In this instance the County has seen this effort with the citizens banning together and recreating the

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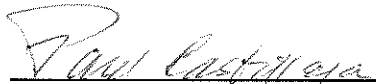
Library Foundation, hiring of the consultant, and trying to get a Library District formed. If the group could get the special district on the May 2018 ballot and if it passes the County has agreed to maintain the library services at the diminished current rate thru November 2018 at which time they would receive their first tax rolls would start to come in. However, if it does not pass in May of 2018 then the County will pull all funding and June 30, 2018 will be the last day for the County Library to be open. Chair Roberts also noted that the grant portion is ran through a separate fund. If the formation of the Library District were to pass on the ballot then those grants would then pass over to the district.

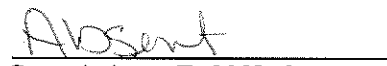
**Adjournment:** The hearing was adjourned at approximately 11:08 a.m.

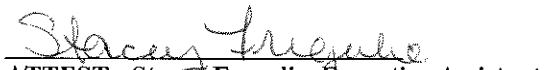
**Respectfully Submitted by:**  
*Stacey Fregulia, Executive Assistant*

**WALLOWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
Chair Susan Roberts

  
Commissioner Paul Castilleja

  
Commissioner Todd Nash

  
**ATTEST:** Stacey Fregulia, Executive Assistant