



**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MAUPIN TOWN HALL  
MAY 22, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Steve Kramer, Chair  
Scott Hege, Vice-Chair  
Kathy Schwartz, County Commissioner

**STAFF:** Stephanie Krell, Office Manager  
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

At 5:36 PM Chair Kramer opens the Town Hall Meeting at the Maupin City Park Community Building.

Chair Kramer explains what the Board of Commissioners does and reviews the various committees/boards on which they serve or participate. He continues by explaining that this Town Hall is an opportunity to hear directly from the public.

Mayor Lynn Ewing notes that citizens are reporting their overwhelming satisfaction with the new broadband system and that there are only a few residents remaining to be connected.

Citizen, Kathy Ritchie mentions a discussion she had with an Oregon State librarian who suggested Maupin put in place an ID policy for short-term use of the library. This would specifically benefit tourists, rafters, fishermen and others that would like to check out items from the library while visiting Maupin.

Chair Kramer agrees that putting a policy in place would be a great idea and suggests she speak with the Executive Director of the Wasco County Library who can bring a proposal to the Library Board.

Citizen, Dave Dixon expresses concern over the road upkeep in Antelope and wants assurance from the Commissioners that the road maintenance will be kept

up. He adds that the Wasco County road technician based in Wamic has been doing a great job thus far.

Mr. Stone wonders if his concern surrounds a blading issue which Mr. Dixon clarifies that his concern is general maintenance due to the high traffic. Citizen, Herb McKay adds that it is the most heavily used road in the area.

Chair Kramer assures that he will follow up with the Wasco County Road Department to be sure that the road is not ignored.

Citizen, Mr. Mindt explains that when he purchased a home in Maupin four year ago, he expressed concern to the then Mayor over the junk cars along the downtown streets. Mr. Mindt said that city officials responded saying that there was nothing that could be done due to a position vacancy for a city ordinance officer. Since then, the position has been filled but Mr. Mindt reports that the ordinance officer told him that there is nothing he could do about the junk cars without city council support.

Mayor Ewing notes that until Barnett Towing or the adjacent gas station takes action, the city council's hands are tied. He also mentions that Barnett Towing has been put on notice and progress has been made. Mr. Mindt believes that legislation coming from the Department of Environmental Quality could create an even bigger problem for the city of Maupin.

Maupin City Councilor, Suzanne Knapp adds that the City Council has a well head protection plan that is outdated but shows key areas where protection for aquifers lie and agrees that the junk yard is a high-risk area. She continues by saying that the city needs to update the map and better educate the public to keep contaminates from the water.

Chair Kramer says the Wasco County Commissioners will follow up with City Council and the Mayor to help facilitate and offer suggestions to resolve these issues and encourages Mr. Mindt to express his concern at the City Council meeting to follow during public comment.

Citizen, Randy Bechtol wants to discuss well head protection surrounding water usage of a company on the other side of the Deschutes River. He wonders who has the authority in Wasco County to regulate how much water is pumped to prevent the wells from running dry.

Mr. Stone replies that the state and local Water Masters are housed in the Wasco County Public Works building and suggests that Mr. Bechtol have a conversation with them to be sure that all rules are being followed.

There are no further public comments or concerns so the Commissioners update the citizens of Maupin on items they are currently working on.

Commissioner Schwartz introduces herself and encourages the community to reach out with any questions or concerns they may have. Citizen, Donna Henderson commends Commissioner Schwartz on her follow-through and thanks her for replying to her email.

Chair Kramer updates the community and notes that during the budget process, the Commissioners were informed by the Sheriff's Office that they have a need to add deputies on patrol in South County. Chair Kramer adds that the County is already facing challenges with filling open positions because of the shortages occurring across the state. During the budget process, they concluded to form a committee to address the reasons surrounding the difficulties of filling the roster. Chair Kramer hopes to have a plan in place by fall to remedy the retainment issues but remarks that Sheriff Magill has the authority to place an additional deputy to patrol the South County area.

Mr. Bechtol comments that as a business owner, he appreciates the deputy's quick response time but that they can be heavy handed when responding to calls, boarding on harassment. He asks the Commissioners to pass this comment along to the Sheriff. Commissioner Schwartz is surprised by his comment on response time because she has received letters of concern from the community over response time and remarks that this is the first complaint she has heard of deputy's using excessive force. She mentions that she was also under the impression that the committee would have a plan in place after the budget processes commences and would like more information on the process but she looks forward to what will come from the newly formed committee.

Chair Kramer also updates the community on hazardous waste and recycling collections. Hazardous waste collections are increasing but he does not see the same trend with recycling. Chair Kramer notes that he is working on this issue with the State Legislature and hopes the governor will adopt a program to assist in remedying the low recycling participation. He also adds that he is hopeful that the

medicine “take back” program with pharmacies will pass in Salem as well. Lastly, Chair Kramer says that the Wasco County Forest Collaborative has initiated their first project to protect homes from Rock Creek down to Wamic and Pine Hollow and will update with more information at a later date.

Vice-Chair Hege updates the community that the QLife and City of Maupin fiber project has been completed with the exception of a few minor loose ends. He adds that Maupin likely has the fastest internet speeds in the County.

Vice-Chair Hege also remarks that he is working with the Lower Deschutes Interagency Task Force and Lower Deschutes Managers Group to make sure agency staff are heard and comments taken into account on topics like economic development. One item Vice-Chair Hege is hoping to bring to City Council in conjunction with the Managers Group is a frequent user pass for the river because of the expense and current policy in place. He adds that BLM and certain Tribes are not on board with changing the process so he encourages citizens to write letters to those that sit on the committee and propose a change.

Chair Kramer concludes the meeting and thanks the citizens for attending. The Town Hall is concluded at 6:21 PM.

Wasco County  
Board of Commissioners



Steven D. Kramer, Board Chair



Scott C. Hege, Vice-Chair



Kathleen B. Schwartz, County Commissioner