

support services (e.g., housing applications, moving expenses, and eviction prevention). In addition, persons who have been diagnosed with a chronic mental illness may be eligible to receive other support services such as home-delivered meals, in-home personal care, and pest eradication services.

Commissioner Adair noted that many people are experiencing high heating and power costs.

In response to Commissioner Chang, Cronin said the described housing benefit services are available to eligible Oregon Health Plan members.

CHANG: Move to authorize the acceptance of an Oregon Health Authority Health-Related Social Needs Housing grant
ADAIR: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes
CHANG: Yes
DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS:

Convening as the Governing Body of the Black Butte Ranch Service District

8. Public Hearing and consideration of Resolution No. 2025-002 submitting to the electors in the Black Butte Ranch Service District (BBRSD) a proposal for a new five-year local option levy to fund law enforcement services

Dave Doyle, County Counsel, said if the proposed measure is approved by the electors, the District would have authority for five years to levy \$0.78 per \$1,000 of assessed value to pay for law enforcement services. Doyle noted the amount change from the current local option levy which is 65 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The public hearing was opened at 9:08 am.

BBRSD Chief of Police Todd Rich spoke to the proposed levy, which he believed to be fair. He referred to increased PERS costs being incurred by the District and the need to address gaps in its health insurance plan.

Susan Wadell, chair of the District's managing board, added that the BBRSD has reduced the number of sworn officers from seven to six to cut costs.

Commissioner Chang asked if any polling or informal survey was done to gauge voter support for this levy. Chief Rich said because the district’s local option levy has passed handily in the past, he was confident that it will again be approved by the voters.

Commissioner Adair asked if six officers are sufficient. Saying that having six officers provides nearly full coverage for the district, Chief Rich added that deputies from the DCSO’s auxiliary office in Sisters help patrol Highway 20 adjacent to Black Butte Ranch.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 9:17 am.

- ADAIR: Move approval of Resolution No. 2025-002 submitting to the electors in the Black Butte Ranch Service District an election on a five-year local option levy to fund law enforcement services
- CHANG: Second

- VOTE: ADAIR: Yes
- CHANG: Yes
- DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried

Reconvening as the Governing Body of Deschutes County

9. Award of agreement with Parnel Biogas Inc. for sole source procurement of landfill gas flaring equipment and start-up services

Tim Brownell, Director of the Solid Waste Department, presented a request that the Board approve the award of a contract to Parnel Biogas for sole source procurement of landfill gas flaring equipment and start-up services.

Explaining that the County must conduct testing every three months to gauge compliance with State regulations pertaining to the monitoring, collection and destruction of methane gas, Brownell said the current flare at the landfill does not allow for testing gas discharges as newly required under the County’s recently renewed Title V permit.

Adding that the current flare is approximately eight years old and was built by Parnel Biogas, Brownell said because some of the flare’s components are reusable, sole sourcing with Parnel Biogas to reuse these compatible components will result in an estimated savings to the County between \$175,000 and \$325,000.

There being no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 10:05 am.

In response to Commissioner DeBone, Mardell confirmed that the required Measure 56 notices were mailed in December.

Commissioner Adair asked about the location of the Roth East Ranch property which was considered as a site for the new County landfill. Mardell said that property is situated south of Millican in the Low Density Habitat area. Solid Waste Director Tim Brownell added that it is bordered by the Core Habitat area.

Mardell reviewed changes to the County’s sage grouse habitat map which will align with the changes made to the State’s map, in accordance with State regulations.

ADAIR: Move approval of first and second reading of Ordinance No. 2025-001
 CHANG: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes
 CHANG: Yes
 DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried

Chair DeBone read the title of the ordinance into the record twice.

CHANG: Move adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-001, amending the Greater-Sage Grouse Combining Zone to comply with changes to Oregon Administrative Rule, by emergency to take effect immediately
 ADAIR: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes
 CHANG: Yes
 DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried

The Commissioners asked for updated information on the sage grouse population and how that is trending.

12. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Committee

Commissioner DeBone reviewed a memo which outlined the makeup of the County’s internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Committee, formed in 2023 for the purpose of integrating best practices for diversity, equity, inclusion, and access into County policies, services, and programs. The memo stated that the DEIA Committee is in the final stages of the process to create its first work plan, which is focused on employee retention, employee

Saying that the critical need is to ensure adequate access to County services for everyone, Commissioner Chang asked if the Board is willing to direct that HR continue the work undertaken by the DEIA committee.

Quoting Peter Drucker with respect to the aphorism that "culture eats strategy for breakfast," Commissioner DeBone spoke to the culture of the County's organization and said we are here to serve the people. He supported staff treating others as they would want to be treated themselves.

Commissioner Chang concluded that many staff who are concerned about providing excellent service and ensuring access for all formed the DEIA committee for the purpose of doing these things, but politics is now impinging on those efforts.

Commissioner DeBone did not support staff-led DEI efforts under those terms, but did support any staff member talking to management or to him. He offered to have conversations on this issue.

DEBONE: Move to terminate the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Committee in its current form

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes

CHANG: No

DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried 2 - 1

OTHER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Adair proposed that the Board direct staff to prepare a resolution supporting the repeal of SB 762 / the Wildfire Hazard Map.

Saying he sees this as an opportunity to educate, Commissioner DeBone supported having a discussion on this.

Noting that the State offers a process for individual property owners to appeal the risk designation of their property, Commissioner Chang saw no need for the County to do more than share that information.

Commissioner Adair wanted this added to the Board's meeting agenda for next Wednesday.

Commissioner Chang spoke to a gross lack of understanding in the community about the relationship of the State Wildfire Hazard map to insurance coverage.

Commissioner Adair said the map is detrimental because it negatively affects the value of people's homes and makes it harder for homeowners to obtain insurance at a reasonable cost.

Commissioner DeBone stated his support for adding this to next week's agenda.

- Commissioner DeBone reported on the graduation of the most recent Civil Air Patrol cohort and announced an upcoming COIC meeting.
- Commissioner Chang reported on yesterday's meeting of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, which included powerful testimony from a justice-involved individual who was granted a downward departure from Judge Ashby. She shared the story of her journey getting treatment and pulling her life together and said she was able to regain custody of her daughter.
- Commissioner Adair acknowledged the good work of MPerfectly, a local organization founded by Ashley Smith which helps homeless women to move forward in positive ways, saying that thus far, 20 women have completed the program.

A break was announced at 10:37 pm. The meeting resumed at 10:49 am.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:49 am, the Board entered executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Real Property Negotiations.

At 11:13 am, the executive session concluded and the public was invited to return to the room. The Board then directed staff to proceed as discussed during the executive session.

ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am.

DATED this 2nd day of April 2025 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR

ATTEST:

Brenda Fitzgerald
RECORDING SECRETARY

Patti Adair
PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR

Phil Chang
PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER