



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DUFUR TOWN HALL
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

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

STAFF: Kathy White, Executive Assistant
Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer

Chair Kramer opened the Town Hall at 6:03 p.m. and introduced the Board members. Each Commissioner reviewed the various committees and projects in which they are currently involved.

Chair Kramer talked about the newly adopted drug take back program. A citizen asked if there would be designated pharmacies. Chair Kramer responded that all pharmacies would be required to have drop boxes; the program will be funded by the pharmaceutical companies.

Mayor Keys asked Vice-Chair Hege if his upcoming trip to Washington D.C. is with a regional group. Vice-Chair Hege replied that they work through NACo and try to collaborate with Oregon and Washington delegates for a unified message.

Mr. Powell asked if there will be bus service to the southern portion of Wasco County; he pointed out that there are citizens who need to use that rather than driving themselves. Commissioner Schwartz replied that the transportation committee is looking at that. She stated that there is some service to south county areas, but citizens need to plan ahead. She added that one of the goals is to link the various transportation systems together to reach further.

Mayor Keys commented that veterans often need to travel to the Veterans Hospital in Portland. Commissioner Schwartz responded that the local VSO can help with those arrangements.

Mr. Stone commented that we have one of the best Veterans Services Offices in the state. He encouraged people to connect with the for veterans services; we

have significantly higher success rates.

Vice-Chair Hege asked what are the biggest challenges facing Dufur. Some of the responses were:

- Attracting families
- Cosmetic Upgrades
- Attracting more businesses
- Infrastructure improvements

Further discussion ensued regarding various approaches to these challenges. Vice-Chair Hege encouraged citizens to contact the Board of Commissioners if they need help navigating state or federal agencies.

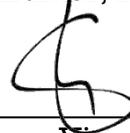
Mr. Powell commented that Dufur has fiber optic but still does not have high speed internet access. Vice-Chair Hege responded that QLife, managed by Wasco County, is a middle mile provider but does provide service to homes. He commented that Dufur does have fiber but it is the service provider that will need to improve speeds. He noted that Dufur's fiber infrastructure is better than many areas of the county and it is hard to understand why the speeds are not better. He encouraged citizens to begin communicating with their provider and insist on better service. Chair Kramer suggested they start by looking at their franchise agreement.

The Town Hall was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners



Steven D. Kramer, Board Chair



Scott C. Hege, Vice-Chair



Kathleen B. Schwartz, County Commissioner