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## Library Director resignation

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From Sarah Beeler <SBeeler@crooklibraryor.gov>

Date Wed 8/27/2025 4:45 PM

To Will VanVactor <Will.VanVactor@crookcountyor.gov>; Meghan McKee <Meghan.McKee@CrookCountyOR.Gov>; Seth Crawford <Seth.Crawford@crookcountyor.gov>; Brian Barney <Brian.Barney@crookcountyor.gov>; Susan Hermreck <Susan.Hermreck@crookcountyor.gov>; Michael Stremme <mstremme1004@yahoo.com>

Dear Meghan, Will, and Commissioners,

It is with appreciation for the job I have been able to do that I submit my letter of resignation. It has actually been my favorite job ever, even beating out my stint as an usher for the performers at the Lane County Fair jumping up and down on my chair at an Aretha Franklin concert!

You now have a community that trusts their library again. You now have a relationship with local schools. You now have staff who are dedicated to their community and are planning on retiring from their current positions.

After a recap of stay interviews with Meghan, Will today, I realized that my vision for library services throughout Crook County is not their vision and that we are at odds over what is important. After 35 years of public library service, I am confident a countywide library system that benefits all residents is the best way forward and I am not willing to compromise because it is easier or less expensive, although I was willing to wait for the right timing.

As a county library, library services for all residents is of paramount importance to me. This was confirmed by our library consultant who was also shocked by the lack of library card holders in the rural areas of Crook County. Once you get about 15 minutes away from the Main Library in Prineville, resident card numbers drop off a cliff. Hiring Brenda for Outreach is a good first step, but having a County Manager on board with the importance of library services in our rural communities is needed. That support was not evident in my meeting today even though rural library services were of the highest priority on our most recent Strategic Plan. We heard from over 400 residents who took the Strategic Planning survey, and we held stakeholder meetings with community members. The new Strategic Plan was carefully vetted and is an accurate portrayal of the direction Crook County Library should be heading...providing library services to all Crook County residents.

Crook County staff have been focused on services at the Main Library in Prineville for many years. Rural outreach may not be something they're excited about, but that doesn't mean the focus on Prineville only is the right one and the cost has been very high, a lack of support for CCL in the rural areas of Crook County. A healthy county library system should use half of the library's resources on rural outreach. Half of the library's card holders should be in the rural areas of Crook County. Reestablishing library support throughout the rest of Crook County is of paramount importance.

I hold the highest regard for all three Crook County Commissioners and believe they truly care about and listen to the residents of Crook County. I have no confidence that the information being passed along to the Commissioners is an accurate portrayal of what is actually going on. For example, the generator grant was a no-brainer. We could have easily adjusted the Library's budget to cover the annual maintenance cost. A new backup generator would have benefited all residents in Crook County. The power has been out twice this past week. This cost not only \$164,000 for the backup generator, but it also cost between \$500,000-\$1,000,000 in future grant funds and it ruined a carefully cultivated relationship.

I was told today to focus on library services at the Main Library in Prineville. This is unacceptable as a county library. My last day is today. I will close at 7pm. Please mail me a final check.

I have enjoyed my job here and wish you all well. I hope countywide library services for all becomes a priority. Our county residents are paying for it.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Beeler



### Sarah Beeler

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