

PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED RANGE OF ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

taken from

Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015

**Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society**



Draft August 1, 2015

The Section III.D, Summary Of Preliminary July 15, 2015 Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) Issues/Range of Alternative Solutions, that follows is part of *APPENDIX A. ISSUES*, supporting *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015* (Appendix A).

Sec III.D	Summary Of Preliminary July 15, 2015 JS&PSS Issues
Sec III.D.1a.	Range of Public Safety Funding and Service Level Alternatives
Sec III.D.1b.	Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program
Sec III.D.2.	Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria Considered In Design of Alternatives

Chapter III Outline From *APPENDIX A. ISSUES*

III.	PROBLEMS/ISSUES
A.	Introduction
B.	Preliminary June 14, 2015 JS&PSS Issues
C.	Research
1.	Informal Citizen Interviews
2.	Media
a)	The Grants Pass Daily Courier
(1)	Guest Opinions
(a)	Guest Opinions Opposing Levies
(b)	Guest Opinions Supporting Levies
(2)	Letters To The Editor
(a)	Citizen Reasons Opposing Levies
(b)	Citizen Reasons Supporting Levies
(c)	Additional Letter To The Editor
(3)	Opinions Editor
(4)	Reporter Coverage
b)	Other Media
3.	Voters' Pamphlet
a)	Arguments Against
b)	Arguments In Favor
D.	Summary Of Preliminary July 15, 2015 JS&PSS Issues
1a.	Range of Public Safety Funding and Service Level Alternatives
1b.	Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program
2.	Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria Considered In Design of Alternatives
a)	Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria
b)	Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria & Examples Of Specific Public Comments
E.	Preliminary Grant Application JS&PSS Issues: Unknown Date
F.	Summary

PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED RANGE OF ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

(Section III.D. Summary Of Preliminary July 15, 2015 JS&PSS Issues)

The following sections are those identified in “bold” on the title page for Chapter III, PROBLEMS/ISSUES (*APPENDIX A. ISSUES*).

- Sec III.D Summary Of Preliminary July 15, 2015 JS&PSS Issues
- Sec III.D.1a. Range of Public Safety Funding and Service Level Alternatives
- Sec III.D.1b. Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program
- Sec III.D.2. Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria Considered In Design of Alternatives

The Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee believes the identification of the preliminary issues for why the levies failed has merit in its own right as a standalone summary of the problem as viewed by the majority of JO CO citizens (i.e., **you can’t find solutions that last if you don’t know the specific problem(s)**). The issues identified by the committee were supplemented primarily with information from a non-random set of informal interviews of JO CO citizens, and articles from *The Grants Pass Daily Courier* (e.g., citizen guest opinions and letters to editor, reporter articles, etc.).

This list of preliminary issues, not listed in order of importance, will probably change further prior to the date of actually submitting an application for a study grant. They are categorized by two ideas identified by the public.

1. Consider a range of public safety funding and service level alternatives, both dollars and staff, and range of type of taxpayer, and
2. Public involvement consultation and criteria issues that should be considered in the design of alternatives.

As food for thought, not quite fitting the two ideas is one citizen’s overall impression.

In reflection, what did the majority of voters seem to say about themselves on this issue [after failure of 4th levy]? 1. We are too poor to pay for more sheriff’s deputies and an adequate jail staff; 2. We will always be too poor for these priorities; 3. We are pessimistic about our economic future; 4. We think the federal government should pay for county government; 5. We think that unregulated mining and timber cutting is the answer to our poverty, so long as we don’t have to live in the mess or look at it; 6. We don’t trust any form of government that asks anything more of us. If you come to JO CO, you are entering a place where the voting majority feels under siege. . . A place where saying no to future responsibility is easier than saying yes to possibilities for growth. Where a gun is the answer to any question.

Another citizen's thoughts on considering a range taxpayer type funding alternatives follows.

Josephine County commissioners only funding solution was the easy pickin's property tax instead of other alternatives, such as an in-county-only lottery.

Everyone I know who voted no on the levy did so as they felt there should be other alternatives sought other than placing the entire burden on the homeowner. Pretty narrow thinking. I for one would be glad to attend a forum to discuss possible alternatives to a property tax. There are people who own homes who are on fixed incomes, and they could lose their homes as a result of the considerable taxes the levy would have created. Many people forget that folks who live in the county have to pay for their fire protection in addition to their property tax. I pay nearly \$600 per year and it goes up every year.

Time for both the county commissioners and the Grants Pass City Council to host a series of joint forums to get real input from concerned citizens, especially those that voted no on the past four levies. Please realize riding the property tax owners backs is dead on arrival. Estimate the cost each of the proposed solutions and present that information to the public. Need real input from folks that realize more money is needed but continue to vote no on a property tax only solution.

Many citizens asked for a range of public safety funding and service level alternatives, both dollars and staff, and range of type of taxpayer. Some asked for a consideration of a mix of taxpayer types funding the safety program.

The two ideas identified by the public were transformed into two ranges of alternatives and a set of public involvement consultation criteria (Appendix A).

Sec III.D.1a. Range of Public Safety Funding and Service Level Alternatives

a) Ideas

Idea 1. Consider a range of public safety funding and service level alternatives, both dollars and staff, and range of type of taxpayer, and

Idea 2. Public involvement consultation and criteria issues that should be considered in the design of alternatives.

b) Alternatives

Alternatives 1. Range of Public Safety Funding and Service Level Alternatives

Alternatives 2. Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program

c) Citizen Involvement

Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria Considered In Design of Alternatives (Sec III.D.2).

d) Major Sources Of Revenue?

1. Permanent tax rate of 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: federal county payments extension with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and another \$4.3 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Historically they averaged about 12 million.

Property tax for county services is 82 cents per \$1,000 — 58 cents permanent, 15.8 cents for the voter-approved jail bond, and 8 cents for three years for an Animal Control levy.

e) List of Citizen Identified Range of Public Safety Funding and Service Level Alternatives

Rough dollar estimates are identified. Alternatives range from an enhanced alternative greater than the maximum annual average federal SRS payments to an alternative with zero SRS payments).

1. Adult Jail Beds
2. Juvenile Justice Center
3. District Attorney's Office
4. Court Services
5. Rural Patrol Deputies
6. Criminal Investigations & Related Sheriff's Office Support Services (1 or 2 services?)
7. Animal Protection
8. Cost Per \$1,000 Assessed Property Value

- Alt Costs of JS&PSS Increase Significantly Above Old Status Quo 2000 level Prior to SRS Alternative** (more than \$15 million?)
- Alt Costs of JS&PSS May 15, 2012 Levy Measure 17 - 43 Alternative** (costs of JS&PSS \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value: \$14 million alternative?)
- Alt Old Status Quo 2000 level Prior to SRS Alternative** (costs of JS&PSS would increase back to the approximately \$12 million?)
- Alt May 21, 2013 Levy Measure 17 - 49 Alternative** (costs of JS&PSS \$1.48 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: \$10 Million Alternative?)
- Alt 2015 House Joint Resolution 21 Alternative** (2015 Session of Oregon Legislature, House Joint Resolution 21, minimum \$2.00 per \$1,000)
- Alt May 19, 2015 Levy Measure 17-66 Alternative** (costs of JS&PSS \$1.40 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: Approximately \$9 million - \$10.5 Million Alternative?)
- Alt May 20, 2014 Levy Measure 17 - 59 Alternative** (costs of of JS&PSS \$1.19 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: \$8.3 Million Alternative)
- Alt No Action Alternative - Live Within Your Budget Alternative** (approximately \$7.6 million?)
- Alt Citizens Can Provide Their Own Protection At Current Funding Alternative** (no SRS Federal payments: approximately 3 million dollars?)
- Alt Unknown Timber Program Future Alternative** (approximately 5 - ? million dollars?)
- Alt Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services Alternative** (apply Oregon House Bill 3453 criteria)

- Alt JO CO Declare Bankruptcy Alternative** (future law like OR HB 2924 (2013) - declare bankruptcy)
- Alt State Implements Oregon House Bill (HB) 3453 Alternative**
- Alt Sales Tax Alternative**
- Alt O&C Revenues: Wyden Bill Alternative**
- Alt O&C Revenues: County Take Back O&C Lands Alternative** (as lands used to be in private ownership paying taxes)
- Alt O&C Revenues: Tax Equivalent Alternative** (Federal government pay JO CO the equivalent of what private rural commercial timber companies presently pay, on a per-acre basis)
- Alt Usage Share Alternative** (city and county special taxing districts pay their usage share)
- Alt Combinations of Alternatives** (other combinations of alternatives)

1b. Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program

- Alt Property Taxes Alternative**
- Alt Sales Tax Alternative**
- Alt Flat Taxes Alternative**
- Alt Volunteer Payments Alternative**
- Alt In-County-Only Lottery Alternative**
- Alt Mix Of Types of Taxpayers Alternative**
- Alt Permanent Tax District(s) Alternative**
- Alt O&C Revenues: Wyden Bill Alternative**
- Alt O&C Revenues: County Take Back O&C Lands Alternative** (as lands used to be in private ownership paying taxes)
- Alt O&C Revenues: Tax Equivalent Alternative** (Federal government pay JO CO the equivalent of what private rural commercial timber companies presently pay, on a per-acre basis)

2. Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria Considered In Design of Alternatives

Summaries of the public involvement consultation and criteria (i.e., problems/issues) considered in design of alternatives follow (see Publicly Identified Problems/Issues for more information).

- Public Safety Should Be Paid By Public.
- Mistrust in Government Growing: Honesty, Transparency and Accountability.
- Citizens Feel Their Voices Are Not Being Heard. What Part Of “No” Don’t They Understand?
- Rural Patrol Presence Has Not Changed From 2000 - 2015; I Don’t Feel More Unsafe Or More Safe.
- Not Fair That Only Property Owners Pay.
- Opportunities Had Not Occurred To Inform Voters in a Comprehensive Non-Special Interest Fashion: Planning & Business Plan.
- Cumulative Assessments Coordinated By JO CO Assessor Office Unaffordable to Many.
- Not Fair That Only Property Owners Pay.
- Promote Economic Development & Education.
- Permanent 58 Cents Per 1,000 JO CO Tax & Current Taxes, Fees, Etc. As Identified By JO CO Assessor’s Office.
- Income & Opportunities Inequity Affects Ability To Pay/Multiple Overlapping Socio-Economic Issues Affect Ability to Pay Taxes, Fees, Etc.
- City and County Residents Should Pay Their Usage Share.

In summary, the July 15, 2015 preliminary list of problems/issues, including the range of alternative solutions, will probably change considerably prior to the date of actually submitting an application for a study grant. The project started in 2013 when the Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee initially started studying the JS&PSS Issue (2013 *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work*; Appendix A). The first preliminary summary effort to identify the issues was June 14, 2015 after the fourth public safety levy failed in four years (2012 - 2015). The next test of reality was a soon after developed second supplemented July 15, 2015 list (Sec III.D Summary Of Preliminary July 15, 2015 JS&PSS Issues). The July version, including the range of alternative solutions, is mainly what this overview of problems/issues is about.

A final list of Committee issues/alternative solutions is being developed at this time. This goal is a comprehensive analysis that includes a systematic review of more of the data prior to the grant application date. For example, the Committee has 517 hard-copy LTTE in its files (2013 - June 12, 2015). The July 15, 2015 analysis of issues was based on 60 LTTE (i.e., 12 % of the 517 TTTE). This same partial analysis applies equally to other public opinion data sources identified in the Study Design (e.g., guest opinions, news articles, arguments in voters' pamphlets, etc.). The Committee is considering a formal content analysis as part of this effort.

The final awarded Study is to analyze all public opinion data sources identified in the Study Design associated with the four levies from 2012 - 2015 with a formal content analysis strategy (Appendix A3.2). The Committee's issues/alternative solutions list(s)' completion date is unknown, except it will be the date of grant application (e.g., winter 2015, summer 2016, etc.).

Sincerely,

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Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015

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**Appendix A. Web References For
*Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015***

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee

Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

- Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee. Draft 2015. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR. http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_GRANT_DESIGN_Draft072215_6wpd.pdf

Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015

- Arguments For Supporting Study Design
- Interested In Becoming Involved?
- Publicly Identified Problems/Issues
- Publicly Identified Range of Alternative Solutions
- Appendix A Appendices to Study Design
 - Appendix A. Issues
 - Appendix A1. Being Heard
 - Appendix A2. All Values Are Legitimate
 - Appendix A3. Measures Representing Public Opinion
 - Appendix A3.1. Letters To The Editor As A Measure Of Crime Salience
 - Appendix A3.2. Content Analysis Writing@CSU

Appendix A. Issues, Supporting *Study Design: 2015*

- Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee. Very Draft July 18, 2015. Appendix A. Issues, supporting *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*. HNA&HS. Hugo, OR.

Authority: 2013 *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work*

- Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee. Draft July 18, 2013. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work*. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR. http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JS&PSS_Issue_Paper_Outline_071813.pdf