



**CURRY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**JOHN HERZOG, CHAIR
CHRISTOPHER PAASCH, VICE CHAIR
COURT BOICE, COMMISSIONER**

94235 Moore Street | Suite #122
Gold Beach, OR 97444
(541) 247-3296 | (541) 247-2718
BOC_Office@co.curry.or.us

July 7, 2022

Sent via Email and U.S. Mail

Chet Brewer



**RE: NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY HEARING - EXECUTIVE SESSION
Presence of Chet Brewer, Facilities & Maintenance Director requested July 11th, 2022**

Dear Mr. Brewer,

The Curry County Board of Commissioners hereby requests your presence at the Executive Session to be held July 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss possible violations of Article 25 of the Curry County Personnel rules including: Article 25(C)(5), Article 25(C)(6), Article 25(C)(10), and Article 25(C)(11)

Our investigation has shown that on the morning of April 18th, 2022, you invited other Facilities & Maintenance employees to the Shop. Once inside, you began demonstrating a self-constructed electric wood burning device (sometimes referred to as a "Lichtenberg Machine") to your staff. During the demonstration, you were electrocuted when the negative and positive poles came in close proximity, causing severe bodily harm.

To the best of the knowledge available to the County, the device was built or otherwise constructed by you on County premises using discarded County materials, which is not an authorized use of your time or resources during work hours, pursuant to Article 25(C)(5) - inefficiency or incompetence; and Article 25(C)(6) - inattention to duty, tardiness, indolence, carelessness, or damage to or negligence in the care and handling of County property.

Homemade Lichtenberg machines have a known history of causing serious injuries and even death. As a Department Head, you are expected to make good use of your time and high-level skills. Events such

as these erode not only the trust of your subordinates, but County staff as a whole. Your Commissioner Liaison Commissioner Herzog was not aware that it was being built or used, nor did you request approval for these activities falling outside your scope of work, which may constitute a violation of Article 25 (C)(10) - misconduct in the performance of employee duties.


Upon placing the device on the worktable and connecting it to electrical power, you put your staff in a possible life-threatening situation. Another person could have been harmed by the device while trying to help you - or due to the proximity of the device to the work area, another employee could have attempted to touch or otherwise use the device without your supervision. Notwithstanding these issues, when you were demonstrating the device, no attempt to equip safety gear on yourself or your staff was made further violating Curry County Personnel Rules as to Article 25 (C)(11) - violation of County safety policy or department safety rules. As a supervisor and department head, you have a duty to set a good example in the workplace and to demonstrate safety procedures to your staff in any situation.

The conduct outlined above is inexcusable, and thus the Board has deemed disciplinary action may be necessary. As stated above, the preliminary hearing is scheduled for **July 11, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, located at 94235 Moore Street, Gold Beach, Oregon. We will announce this meeting as an Executive Session unless you inform us by **5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2022** that you wish for the meeting to be held in public session. After your comments, the Board will meet to discuss and additional information you have provided and will make a decision on your future employment with the county.

If, during the Executive Session, enough information on this issue is provided to come to a decision regarding your employment on that day and no further deliberation is necessary, the Board of Commissioners will be required to enter into public session to vote on the decision. No decision affecting your employment will be made in Executive Session.

You may attend this meeting, submit a written statement or any other mitigating information, or both. Written correspondence must be received no later than the date and time of the Executive Session. If you choose not to attend or participate, the Board will regardless make a final decision, based on the facts known as of July 11, 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Herzog".

John Herzog, Chair
Curry County Board of Commissioners

7/8/22, 9:48 AM

Yahoo Mail - RE: Preliminary Hearing

From: Anthony Pope <popea@co.curry.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2022 4:16:31 PM
To: Chet Brewer <brewerc@co.curry.or.us>
Subject: Preliminary Hearing

Good afternoon Chet,

Please see the attached letter requesting you attend a Preliminary Hearing. I know we discussed Tuesday that you would like to have this as an open session. If you could, please respond to this email if that is still your plan. If so, the meeting will be held at the same time but will not be in executive session.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Anthony Pope

Curry County Counsel

Office: 541 247 3218

Cell: 541 373 9084