

News

Oregon Lawmakers Will Again Consider Recording Grand Juries

BEND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon lawmakers will have a chance to reconsider the merits of recording grand jury proceedings as the legislative session gets underway in February.

Last year, a bill that would require courts to electronically record such proceedings stalled amid passionate debate. A similar measure has been introduced this year, but with some key changes, reported *The Bend Bulletin*.

A grand jury reviews evidence and decides whether there's probable cause to bring criminal charges against a suspect in a felony case. The process involves witnesses answering questions from prosecutors and is not open to the public, the defendant or defense attorneys.

Oregon is one of the few states that doesn't record grand jury proceedings electronically. Instead, one grand juror takes handwritten notes on the hearing.

The defense bar says recording the presentation of evidence and testimony would be a check on prosecutorial power.

But many of the state's prosecutors have expressed opposition to the bill.



The Oregon legislature (shown here in 2009) will hear a bill requiring grand juries to be recorded.

They say it would be an unnecessary burden and could endanger witnesses and victims.

The handwritten notes are considered a record of the district attorney's office and not released to any other party. Under the new proposal, the electronic recording would be a record

of the court and could be distributed to prosecutors and defense attorneys if the grand jury hands down an indictment.

The updated proposal would allow district attorneys to request a protective order to conceal information about a victim, witness or criminal informant. It would also let certain people, like children and people with intel-

lectual disabilities, give a statement to a grand jury through a police officer.

The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association supports the bill but is wary about that provisions, said lobbyist Gail Meyer. She said it's not ideal for testimony to be filtered through another person, although it is usually allowed in other states that record grand juries.

Meyer says recording grand juries would let the accused know what claims witnesses are making against them, and the defense bar argues that recording would bring some oversight to a secret process.

Oregon District Attorneys Association lobbyist Kevin Neely, however, says prosecutors are already legally required to share evidence that could benefit defendants.

"The district attorneys association believes that this is a solution in search of a problem," said Neely, who argues that the provision would be costly and not improve public safety. "There's very little evidence that there is grand jury abuse in Oregon."

He said the group is opposed to the provisions outline in the bill but not necessarily opposed to recording grand juries.

PHOTO BY M.O. STEVENS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (PUBLIC DOMAIN)

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CITY OF ATHENA, OREGON - WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS - CITY WELL NO. 5 - 2016
City of Athena, Oregon
302 East Curren Street / P.O. Box 686
Athena, Oregon 97813

The **City of Athena, Oregon**, invites Bids for the construction of **Water System Improvements - City Well No. 5 - 2016**. The well work consists of drilling, casing, sealing, developing, and testing a new basalt groundwater supply well. The well is estimated to be approximately 1,600 feet deep. The project is located in northwest Athena, adjacent to City ball fields on property owned by the City.

Sealed Bids for the described Project will be received by the City of Athena, Oregon, at City Hall, located at 302 East Curren Street, Athena, Oregon 97813, until 2 p.m., local time, February 25, 2016, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The time for substantial completion shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days.

The Contract is subject to the applicable provisions of ORS 279C.800 through ORS 279C.870, the Oregon Prevailing Wage Law.

This Project is being funded in part through USDA Rural Development.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Anderson Perry & Associates, Inc., Brad D. Baird, P.E., 1901 N. Fir Street, La Grande, Oregon, 541-963-8309, bbaird@andersonperry.com. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.andersonperry.com> under the **Bid Docs** link. The digital Bidding Documents may be downloaded for a non-refundable payment of \$25.00 by inputting QuestCDN eBidDoc Number 4193158 on the website. Assistance with free QuestCDN membership registration, document downloading, and working with the digital Project information may be obtained at QuestCDN.com, at 952-233-1632, or via e-mail at info@questcdn.com. The Contract Documents will be available for download after February 1, 2016. No paper sets will be provided for bidding purposes.

Bidding Documents may also be examined at the following locations:

City of Athena City Hall, 302 East Curren Street, Athena, Oregon

Anderson Perry & Associates, Inc., 1901 N. Fir Street, La Grande, Oregon

Anderson Perry & Associates, Inc., 214 E. Birch Street, Walla Walla, Washington.

The Owner is an equal opportunity employer. Minority and women-owned businesses are encouraged to bid. Minority and women-owned businesses requesting Contract Documents should indicate they are a minority firm at the time they request Contract Documents so they may be listed on the Planholders List as a minority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. local time on February 18, 2016, at the City of Athena City Hall, 302 East Curren Street, Athena, Oregon 97813. Bidders are highly encouraged to attend.

Owner: City of Athena, Oregon
By: Nancy Parker
Title: City Recorder
Date: February 3, 2015

2-3-16

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