

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
January 7, 2026

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Ron Jacobs and Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in person. Present in the meeting room was Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski. Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois was present electronically. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, Courthouse bulletin board and emailed to the Argus Observer and those persons who have requested notice. The agenda is recorded as instrument # 2026-0063

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution R26-03: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 294.471. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The purpose of the supplemental budget is to allocate insurance proceeds in the County Fair Fund that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds are to be used to replace stolen items and repair damages related to a November 2024 theft and vandalism claim. See instrument # 2026-0064

BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R26-02: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.463. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funds are transferred within various TCATT (Tri-County Anti-Trafficking Taskforce) line-items in the District Attorney’s budget. See instrument # 2026-0065

LATCF

Ms. DuBois explained a claim was filed against the County for an alleged slip and fall exiting a shower in the jail. A quote to apply slip resistance outside the shower entries was obtained (approximately \$7,630). Ms. DuBois suggested using LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) funding for the project, or alternatively, the project could be included in the budget for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Jacobs moved to authorize the use of LATCF funds for the project. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET OFFICER

Commissioner Jacobs moved to appoint Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois as Budget Officer for FY 2026-27. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. DuBois left the meeting.

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #254-25 to Idaho Power for work on Lincoln Drive #903; Permit #255-25 to Century Link/Crown Utilities for an emergency cable repair on Eureka Avenue #862; Permit #01-26 to Rally Networks for burying of fiber optic communications cable on N Third Street #9281; and Permit #02-26 to Rally Network for burying of fiber optic communications cable on Lytle Boulevard #570. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of December 17, 2025 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRO TEMPORE

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Order GO-01-26 Appointing Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore for Malheur County Justice Court during the 2026 Calendar Year. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-0066

INVESTING FUNDS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Order GO-02-26: In the Matter of Investing Any Sinking Fund, Bond Fund or Surplus Funds. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-0067

AUTHORIZATION OF REFUNDS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R26-01: In the Matter of Authorization of Refunds by Tax Collector. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-0068

IGA – EXPUNCTION OF JUVENILE RECORDS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) No. 1555 for Expunction of Juvenile Records with Oregon Youth Authority. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Staff in the Juvenile Department will complete the expunction services required under the Agreement. The agreement expires December 31, 2027. See instrument # 2026-0186

AMENDMENT – IGA #185822

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Fifth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2025-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement #185822 for the Financing of Public Health Services. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Funding Table for Program Element 12-01: Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEP) is changed.

PERS RETIREE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Employment of PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) Retiree Employment Agreement with Danny Perkins. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement supersedes and replaces employment agreement recorded as instrument #2025-3867. See instrument # 2026-0069

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Employment of PERS Retiree Employment Agreement with Kathy Pozzi. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-0070

FAIR BOARD

Commissioner Mendiola moved to reappoint Helen Thomas, Maddie Hewitt, Jacqueline Heid and Garrett Chamberlain to the Fair Board. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Terms are three years.

Additionally, Fair Board member Leanna Elguezabal recently resigned from the Board.

AOC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Malheur County does not currently have a voting position on the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Legislative Committee. The AOC Constitution and Bylaws allow a county without a member of its governing body on the Legislative Committee to petition the AOC Board of Directors to appoint one of its members to the committee. Commissioner Mendiola offered to serve on the AOC Legislative Committee. Consensus of the Court was to request the AOC Board of Directors appoint Commissioner Mendiola to the AOC Legislative Committee.

CONTRACT WITH GREG WINTEROWD

County Counsel Stephanie Williams requested the Court authorize contracting with Greg Winterowd to assist with updating the Malheur County Code, only as it pertains to the Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zone. Mr. Winterowd is familiar with the County and has assisted the County with various projects in the past. The Planning Department receives more applications in the EFU zone than any other zone in the County. Mr. Winterowd has submitted a draft contract for the project with a cost of \$50,000. The Planning Department budget includes sufficient funds in the Contracted Services line-item for the project. Commissioner Jacobs moved to enter into a contract with Mr. Winterowd for land planning consulting services to update the County EFU zoning code and authorize Judge Joyce or Ms. Williams to sign the agreement. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Joyce asked for comments from the public; no public comments were received.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mendiola moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.