

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
January 28, 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. Judge Joyce led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in person. Present in the meeting room were Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski, Sheriff Travis Johnson, and Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth. 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 # 2026-0396

LANDFILL

Environmental Health Director Evan Magner met with the Court and requested authorization to waive disposal fees at Lytle Blvd Landfill for refuse collected on BLM (Bureau of Land Management) ground. Backcountry Deputy Perkins is finding a lot of dumped refuse and is working with BLM to cleanup some of the areas. Mr. Magner suggested waiving the disposal fees for the debris collected; larger items would need dismantled and separated as not all materials are accepted at the landfill (and possibly incur a disposal fee). The County's contract with the landfill contractor provides that the County may dispose of up to 15,000 pounds of waste per year without paying fees. Mr. Magner has spoken with Chad Gerulf (contractor) and DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality). The tonnage will be tracked and included in the County's annual report to DEQ; it is not anticipated that the cleanup project will greatly impact the annual tonnage amount allowed under the County's DEQ permit. After discussion, Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve waiver of fees at the landfill for disposal of garbage collected on BLM property in conjunction with the BLM cleanup project. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion on the condition that the Federal government cooperate with the County in efforts to control the accumulation of refuse on federal property within Malheur county, and the motion passed unanimously.

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of January 21, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Vote: JM/RJ/DJ in favor. Approved.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution No. R26-05: 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 grant funds in the Jail budget from the Oregon

State Police CJIS Division that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds are to be used in purchasing a new Livescan. See instrument # 2026-0397

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

CORRESPONDENCE – OWYHEE LEGISLATION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to sign a letter to Senator Ron Wyden and Representative Cliff Bentz regarding the Owyhee legislation. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition (OBSC) met with the Court in December and requested a letter of support for Representative Cliff Bentz's Oregon Owyhee Wilderness and Community Protection Act. See instrument # 2026-0398

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was held in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(h) (Legal Counsel) with Judge Joyce presiding and Commissioner Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola present. Also present were County Counsel Stephanie Williams, Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth; and present electronically were Tax/Treasurer Management Assistant Angie Micheli and Antonio Sunseri with the Argus Observer. No decisions were made during the session.

OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL

Commissioner Jacobs moved to authorize County Counsel and the Treasurer/Tax Collector to hire an attorney to represent Malheur County in responding to a subpoena and any other legal matters that may arise in the Lynch v. Multnomah County district court lawsuit. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

REALTOR – TAX FORECLOSED PROPERTY

Ms. Forsyth and Ms. Williams discussed the need to hire a realtor to market homes the County acquires by Tax Foreclosure as the homes were the primary residence of the landowners (HB 2089 (2025)). The County acquired three homes in January; the properties need cleaned up, one needs a tree removed, and occupants need removed. The homes are valued under \$250,000 so an appraiser is not required. The new law provides that the County can choose the process it exercises to obtain a realtor. The County could develop a process to solicit for interested realtors along with a selection process; or the County could directly appoint a realtor. If a property does not sell within 12 months with a realtor, then the County can sale the property at auction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

COURT ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

** State of Oregon Intergovernmental Grant Agreement No. 186911 with Malheur County Health Department for the Reproductive Health Program is recorded as instrument # 2026-0413; Amendment Number One (1) is recorded as instrument # 2026-0414. The agreement terminates June 30, 2027