

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
February 4, 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, Ambulance Service District (ASD) Coordinator Keith Ishida, and Heather Land with TVP. 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 # 2026-0455

TREASURE VALLEY PARAMEDICS (TVP) - QUARTERLY UPDATE

TVP, Inc. Vice-President Heather Land met with the Court and provided a quarterly update per the terms of the personal services contract amendment. Staffing challenges continue. Licensing requirements are less in Idaho. The GEMT tax is active and TVP makes quarterly payments. The reimbursement payments TVP receives from the tax have reduced substantially since the initial payment. The GEMT tax is 5% on gross revenue and Medicaid reimbursement payments are supposed to be slightly higher.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of January 28, 2026 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

BUDGET TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R26-07: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 294.463. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funds are transferred within the Jail budget for the Livescan machine. See instrument # 2026-0456

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

ORDER ADOPTING COMPENSATION POLICY RELATED TO FOOD/BEVERAGE

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Order No. GO-03-26: In the Matter of Adopting the Malheur County Official Compensation Policy Related to Food, Beverage and other County Related Items for County Employees, Elected Officials and Volunteers. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. County employees, volunteers and elected officials may receive food, beverage, and other related items provided by the County during a County-related event (for example: planning commission meetings, budget committee meetings, and department head meetings). Order No. GO-03-26 does not apply to the County Court. See instrument # 2026-0457

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved

ORDER ADOPTING COMPENSATION POLICY RELATED TO FOOD/BEVERAGE – COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION NO. 1

Judge Joyce moved to approve Order No. GO-04-26: In the Matter of Adopting the Malheur County Official Compensation Policy Related to Food, Beverage and other County Related Items for County Commissioner Position No. 1. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Mendiola abstained. County Commissioner Position No. 1 may receive food, beverage, and other related items provided by the County during a County-related event (for example: planning commission meetings, budget committee meetings, and department head meetings). See instrument # 2026-0458

Vote: DJ/RJ in favor. Approved

ORDER ADOPTING COMPENSATION POLICY RELATED TO FOOD/BEVERAGE – COUNTY COMMISSIONER POSITION NO. 2

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Order No. GO-05-26: In the Matter of Adopting the Malheur County Official Compensation Policy Related to Food, Beverage and other County Related Items for County Commissioner Position No. 2. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Jacobs abstained. County Commissioner Position No. 2 may receive food, beverage, and other related items provided by the County during a County-related event (for example: planning commission meetings, budget committee meetings, and department head meetings). See instrument # 2026-0459

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved

ORDER ADOPTING COMPENSATION POLICY RELATED TO FOOD/BEVERAGE – COUNTY JUDGE

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Order No. GO-06-26: In the Matter of Adopting the Malheur County Official Compensation Policy Related to Food, Beverage and other County Related Items for the County Judge. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed. Judge Joyce abstained. The County Judge may receive food, beverage, and other related items provided by the County during a County-related event (for example: planning commission meetings, budget committee meetings, and department head meetings). See instrument # 2026-0460

Vote: RJ/JM in favor. Approved

COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Leanna Elguezabal and Helen Thomas resigned from the Malheur County Fair Board. The Court expressed appreciation to both Ms. Elguezabal and Ms. Thomas for their many years of service and endless efforts to the Fair.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ms. DuBois explained the Sheriff's Office has an active investigation in which goats may be removed from a property. A supplemental budget will be prepared to move funds from Cash on Hand to the Sheriff's Office Investigation line-item (\$20,000).

PUBLIC HEARING - SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution R26-04. Notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer. The public hearing and supplemental budget were necessary in order to allocate lease proceeds and interest in the Reload/Industrial Park Project Special Fund that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds are to be handled as outlined in the Transition Agreement between Malheur County, MCDC (Malheur County Development Corporation) and ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation). No public comments were received. Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Resolution No. R26-04: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.471. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #2026-0461

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

ASD SESSION

The Court met as the governing body of the Ambulance Service District (ASD). ASD Coordinator Keith Ishida explained that Malheur county continues to experience a shortage of licensed paramedics and requested the Court revisit the conflict-of-interest language in the job description and allow Mr. Ishida to work for the ambulance providers under contract with Malheur County and also serve as the ASD Coordinator.

Ms. Land noted that TVP is the only ALS (Advanced Life Support) agency; a paramedic working for an agency can only work to the agency's level of certification for insurance purposes, protocols, and such. Ms. Land also noted it is helpful to have additional medics that can be called in during high peak times.

The Court took the request under advisement. See instrument # 2026-0462 for the written handout.

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.

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

** Special Public Works Fund loan for \$2,050,000 was satisfied as of 01/22/2026 - See instrument # 2026-0488; Satisfaction of Mortgage is recorded as instrument # 2026-0486

*** Termination of UCC Instrument #2020-0484, Right of First Refusal Water Rights. See Instrument # 2025-4154

**** **DEED** - Foreclosure Deed from Malheur County Treasure and Tax Collector, Jennifer J. Forsyth, "Grantor" to Malheur County, a political subdivision of the State of Oregon "Grantee" for Circuit Court Case #23CV34276. See Instrument #2026-0239

***** **DEED** - Foreclosure Deed from Malheur County Treasurer and Tax Collector, Jennifer J. Forsyth, "Grantor" to Malheur County, a political subdivision of the State of Oregon "Grantee" for Circuit Court Case #22CV28451. See Instrument #2026-0240