

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**February 11, 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, Surveyor Derrick McKrola, Sheriff Travis Johnson, and Jeff Carpenter with Snake River Economic Development Alliance (SREDA). 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 # 2026-0526

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Johnson updated the Court on a current investigation at the Grand Barr Dairy outside of Nyssa. The Sheriff's Office recently seized a herd of goats from the dairy (approximately 239 goats, three of which were euthanized under the direction of the veterinarian). The bulk of the goats were sent to an out-of-state dairy where they will receive care and be milked properly; 35 goats remain in the County that need additional veterinarian care and most will go to a sanctuary in California. Additional funds are needed in the Sheriff's budget for this investigation. The Animal Defense Fund may reimburse the County for some of the expenses incurred; and there is a possible donor that wants to assist with veterinarian and freight expenses. The case has not yet gone to Grand Jury, but charges will include Animal Neglect and Animal Abuse in the First Degree and in the Second Degree.

The County's contract with Ani-Care Animal Shelter will terminate the end of February. Ani-Care's contract for its facility has ended. CASPR Rescue (currently in Idaho) has indicated it may submit a proposal to the County for dog shelter services.

The jail is currently at 90-plus percent capacity. Staffing is good; the Ordinance Deputy position is open and there are two Jail Control Technician vacancies. The Search and Rescue Banquet will be held Friday, February 13th and Sheriff Johnson invited the Court members to attend.

**CROSSING PERMITS**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #03-26 to CenturyLink/Crown Utilities to replace a damaged pedestal on Alberta Avenue #768; and Permit #04-26 to Owyhee Irrigation District for replacement of a pipe on Community Road #932. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

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

## **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of February 4, 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 Supplemental Budget Resolution R26-08: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.471. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The purpose of the supplemental budget is to allocate Cash on Hand in the General Fund to the Sheriff's Investigation Expense line-item - these funds will be used by the Sheriff's Office in the investigation, seizure and care of goats from the Grand Barr Dairy. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-0527

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

## **AMENDMENT – IGA #185822**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Sixth 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. Program Element 12-01: Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEP) funding is increased \$450 for training.

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

## **ROAD ACCEPTANCE**

Surveyor Derrick McKrola met with the Court and presented road acceptances on partition plats for the Court's consideration. Commissioner Jacobs moved to accept road dedication of a portion of Sage Road and a portion of Canyon Two Road as shown on the Schaffeld Family LLC Partition Plats. (Border Region Housing (BRH) action) See instrument # 2026-0574 and 2026-0575 for the Partition Plats and instrument # 2026-0528 for the written statement prepared by County Surveyor Derrick McKrola.

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

## **CHECK REGISTER**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Accounts Payable Registers for September, October, November, December 2025, and January 2026. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

**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.