

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**March 18, 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 was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois. 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 # 2026-0923

**COUNTY LAND SALE**

Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth and Management Assistant Angie Micheli met with the Court and presented the list of properties for the 2026 County Land Sale. Reference #650 will be offered at the sale as it did not sell at the 2020 foreclosure land sale; Reference # 4633, #4634, and #5705 are from the 2021 foreclosure and have not previously sold and will be offered at the sale. The list of properties from the 2022 foreclosure and the 2023 foreclosure includes three homes that will be listed with a realtor and not sold on the courthouse steps (due to legislation changes).

County Counsel Stephanie Williams explained that Malheur County owns 40 acres in Baker County (Baker County Ref. # 10108; real market value is \$12,000). A title report for the property has been ordered. The Court was asked to consider whether or not the County should retain ownership of the property or offer it for sale at the County Land Sale. Notice would be provided to the adjoining landowners if the Court chooses to declare the property as surplus property and sell it at auction.

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Order GO-07-26: Order for the Sale of County Properties (2022 Foreclosure). Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-0925

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

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Order GO-08-26: Order for the Sale of County Properties (2023 Foreclosure). Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-0926

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

The County Land Sale will be held May 7, 2026.

**COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of March 11, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

### **MCDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AGREEMENT – REMBOWSKI**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Agreement between Malheur County Court and Taylor Rembowski – stipend/supplemental compensation for duties of Executive Director to Malheur County Development Corporation (MCDC). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Compensation is \$1,000 a month; the agreement terminates June 30, 2026.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Judge Joyce asked for comments from the public. No public comments were received.

### **UPDATE - CULL ONIONS; GRASSHOPPERS**

Casey Prentiss with Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Corey Maag met with the Court. Mr. Prentiss and Mr. Maag discussed disposal of cull and waste onions. The Onion Maggot Control Order requires that cull or waste onions be disposed of by an approved method prior to March 15th. Cull onions produced after March 15 until July 1 must be disposed of within 7 days. Additionally, the ODA Pesticides Program has identified insecticides that can be applied to onion cull piles for onion maggot control until proper disposal occurs. Onions disposed of by chopping or shredding can be spread on the field (no more than 80 tons per acre) and covered.

The warm weather the county has experienced this winter and spring is affecting the storage of onions and there is concern about how to dispose of the high volume of onions in the area. ODA staff is meeting with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) next week regarding the concerns. The onion growers are inquiring if the disposal tonnage limit per acre can be extended; if the cull control area can be reduced so it is not all of Malheur county; if a pit could be put in at the County landfill; and if there are any other disposal methods not currently authorized in the Onion Maggot Control Order. ODA pesticide and water quality staff are also talking to DEQ about the possibility of disposing of the onions in a way that is not considered solid waste. See instrument # 2026-0924 for information on the Onion Maggot Control Order and ODA Pesticide Advisory.

There is no funding for grasshoppers this year and ODA will not do surveying. The County could contract with ODA for surveying. There are some counties in the state that will have grasshopper problems this year. The Federal government will survey Federal lands on a limited capacity.

### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

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

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