

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
April 15, 2026

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:02 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, County Counsel Stephanie Williams and Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski. 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 # 2026-01347

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – ONTARIO ASA AND NYSSA/ADRIAN ASA

Ambulance Service District (ASD) Coordinator Keith Ishida met with the Court and discussed a request for proposal for ambulance services for the Ontario and Nyssa/Adrian Ambulance Service Areas (ASA). Also present were: Heather Land and Jelisa Pantoja from TVP (Treasure Valley Paramedics); ASD Advisory Board members Doug Dewar and Jim Maret; and ASD Advisory Board member Tim Rines joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Public member John Messick joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Mr. Ishida shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding Paramedic care. Oregon Administrative Rule defines Advanced Life Support (ALS) and it does not limit the title of ALS to Paramedics only. OAR (Oregon Administrative Rules) outlines EMS (Emergency Medical Services) licensure levels. If a provider is authorized to perform ALS skills they are functioning at ALS level. Advanced Life Support in Oregon is not one uniform level of care; rather it is on a range depending on the certified provider level. A Paramedic has full ALS capability. Advanced and Intermediate EMTs are considered Limited ALS. In summary, Oregon defines ALS broadly, and includes Advanced and Intermediate EMTs. However, the State clearly distinguishes between limited and full ALS – and only paramedics provide the full scope of advanced life-saving interventions. Mr. Ishida briefly shared information on four medications that only Paramedics can administer (Adenosine, Calcium Chloride, Diltiazem, and Labetalol); and reviewed the following Paramedic procedures - Rapid Sequence Intubation, Cardiac Pacing, Cardiac Cardioversion, Needle Decompression, and Surgical Airway. A Paramedic is a licensed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider in the State of Oregon who practices at the highest level of Advanced Life Support (ALS) as recognized under Oregon Health Authority (OHA) EMS regulations. (See instrument # 2026-01360 for the complete PowerPoint presentation)

Mr. Ishida explained the difference between ALS Advanced, ALS Intermediate, and ALS Paramedic. As outlined by the administrative rules advanced life support is not a single level of care; it exists in a spectrum. While Advanced and Intermediates providers operate with a Limited ALS level, only Paramedics provide the full scope of advanced life-saving interventions, including

medications, procedures, and decision-making capabilities. That distinction matters when considering system design and patient outcomes.

The current contract (has been amended twice) is structured to provide one ambulance, staffed with a Paramedic and EMT; and a second ambulance staffed with an ALS provider, which could be most of the time an Advanced or Intermediate. The amendments to the contract were driven primarily due to provider staff shortages. Mr. Ishida explained that Malheur County is growing, call volume, expectations and system demands are increasing, so the question becomes, not what we can get by with, but what we should be working toward. The ASD Advisory Board believes that, if possible, the system should be designed to provide one Paramedic and one EMT on Ambulance One; and one Paramedic and one EMT on Ambulance Two; and, if needed, attempt to at least have a Paramedic on the backup call unit for Medic Three. (Written support from the ASD Advisory Board for moving forward with the draft Request for Proposal for ambulance services for the Ontario and Nyssa/Adrian ASAs was received; see instrument # 2026-01348)

Mr. Maret expressed support for increasing the Ambulance Service District assessment (would need to go to a vote of the people).

Ms. Land also expressed support for increasing the ASD assessment. Ms. Land explained that TVP staffs Paramedics as much as possible. There is a nationwide Paramedic shortage; Weiser, Idaho recently went to BLS (Basic Life Support) only.

Commissioner Jacobs noted that he was not unsatisfied with the current ambulance service provider, but he was agreeable to soliciting for providers as proposed in the draft RFP (Request for Proposal); and motioned to authorize publication of the RFP. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Crossing Permit #18-26 to CenturyLink/Crown Utilities for an emergency project on Hope Road #569; and Permit #19-26 to CenturyLink/Crown Utilities for an emergency project on Cloverdale Avenue #556. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

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

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of April 1, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

BUDGET TRANSFER – AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT

Acting as the Governing Body of the Ambulance Service District, Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution No. R26-13: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS (Oregon Revised Statute) 294.463. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funds in the amount of \$9,500 are transferred from the ASD Coordinator line-item to the Disposable Medical Supplies line-item. See instrument # 2026-01349

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

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH, LOCAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG AND DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Community Mental Health, Local Alcohol and Drug and Development Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that Holly Dominick be appointed to the Advisory Committee due to the retirement of Christine Phillips. Commissioner Jacobs moved to appoint Holly Dominick to the Community Mental Health, Local Alcohol and Drug and Development Disabilities Advisory Committee. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Dominick replaces Christine Phillips on the committee. (Additionally, Annette Volk and Anna LaRosa resigned from the committee.)

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

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution R26-14: 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 funds from the City of Vale in the Sheriff's budget that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds are to be used to pay for a radar detector for a Vale Deputy. The City of Vale was instructed to pay the invoice directly but instead included into the City of Vale quarterly reimbursement. See instrument # 2026-01350

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

CIS INVOICE

Ms. DuBois explained that a CIS (City/County Insurance Services) invoice for a claim was received in the amount of \$100,000 and inquired if the Court wanted the invoice paid from the LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) budget or the General Fund budget. Consensus of the Court was to pay the invoice from LATCF.

LETTER OF SUPPORT – CITY OF VALE

Commissioner Jacobs moved to sign a letter of support for the City of Vale's Small City Allotment Grant Application through Oregon Department of Transportation for 15th Street improvements. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-01351

OPPORTUNITY ZONES (OZ)

Nick Green, President of Catalyst Public Policy Advisors and Managing Director of R3 Strategies Consortium met with the Court regarding the Opportunity Zone 2.0 program. The Treasury Department released the final list of eligible census tracts that governors can nominate. Each governor can nominate one out of four eligible tracts (25%). On April 13th, Business Oregon began accepting applications through the local nomination process; applications are due on May 22nd. There are three eligible tracts in Malheur County; a separate application is required for each tract to be considered. Governors have 90 days to submit up to 25% of eligible tracts for OZ designation to the Treasury Department. Treasury will compile the final list that takes effect January 1, 2027. The local nomination application requires addressing three categories: investment readiness; capacity to support private investment; and strategic alignment with the comprehensive plan, local city plans, economic development strategies, and statewide policy. Each application must be tailored to the specific context of that census tract.

Mr. Green explained that one eligible tract is in the Ontario area and basically covers the downtown core of Ontario; urban revitalization, addressing blight, and repurposing abandoned buildings and structures could be addressed in an application for this tract. The tract in the Nyssa area could be compelling for workforce housing; housing will be a need with the Grassy Mountain mine project – both during construction and operations. If more than one application is submitted, the applications will need to be prioritized and ranked. Where is the most opportunity for private equity investors to come in and put money into the community? Is it in subdivision development and housing? Is it revitalization of older infrastructure that has potential opportunities? Census tracts that don't have a strong market driver for private equity to flow into would be prioritized lower. Investors are looking to maximize their internal rate of return; they want to invest in products that are going to generate rents and appreciate quickly.

Mr. Rembowski suggested that if the Court believes the Opportunity Zone 2.0 program is something the County should be looking towards then funding to contract with a consultant could be taken from the Technical Assistance line-item in the Economic Development budget.

PROCLAMATION

Undersheriff Dave Kesey met with the Court and presented the Public Safety Telecommunications Week proclamation. Undersheriff Kesey read the proclamation:

PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK - APRIL 12-18, 2026

WHEREAS, since 1981 the Congress of the United States, and the President of the United States have established one week in April as National Telecommunicators Week; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that telecommunicators are critical to the interest and well-being of the community, the Malheur County Court, recognized our local Telecommunicators as “First Responders” in resolution number R20-28 on July 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time of the day and night. They can range from a serious medical emergency, to an active fire or need for law enforcement assistance. Often when an individual encounters an emergency they reach for the phone and dial 911. The men and women who answer these calls for help are trained to gather essential information, dispatch the proper resources and provide vital information and instructions to a caller in distress; and

WHEREAS, public safety telecommunicators are more than a calm and reassuring voice at the end of the phone. They are the sentries standing guard over us at night. Alert and ready to answer that call for service with whatever help that caller needs at the time. Knowledgeable, skilled and certified professionals who work closely with law enforcement, fire and medical personnel; and

WHEREAS, our County enjoys a high standard of public health and safety and we owe a great deal of gratitude to them. During this special observance we extend a profound thank you to each operator who answers our request for help -- Tom, Kathy, Stephanie, Ashley, Michele, Brooke, Jason, Genesis, Jami, Brittany, Charlotte, and Ashley.

NOW THEREFORE, the Malheur County Court Proclaims the week of April 12th – 18th to be Malheur County Public Safety Telecommunicator’s Week. We invite all residents to observe this week in honor of our telecommunicators who help protect our health and safety.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to proclaim the week of April 12-18, 2026 to be Malheur County Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week; and expressed appreciation and thanks to those who serve in that capacity. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

MCDC BOARD

Two individuals have expressed interest in serving on the Malheur County Development Corporation (MCDC) board. A total of three board members are needed. Additional interested persons to serve on the board will be sought.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was held in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with designee on real property transaction negotiations with Judge Joyce presiding and Commissioner Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola present. Also present were County Counsel Stephanie Williams, Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth, Tax/Treasurer Management Assistant Angie Micheli, and Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois. No decisions were made during the session.

5611 WILLIS STREET, BROGAN

Commissioner Jacobs moved to authorize expenditure of funds, up to \$25,000, for Freedom Cleaning to cleanup Tax Lot 1600 in Brogan. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (The County acquired this property through the tax foreclosure process and will be listing the property for sale through a realtor.)

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

COURT ADJOURNMENT

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

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