

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**April 22, 2026**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Commissioner Ron Jacobs was absent. 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 # 2026-1439

**PROCLAMATION - BUILDING SAFETY MONTH**

Building Official Adele Schaffeld met with the Court and presented a proclamation declaring the month of May as Building Safety Month: also present in support of Building Safety Month were David Spencer, Past President of the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors; Kylee VanOrman, Wasco County Deputy Building Official and Secretary/Treasurer of Eastern Oregon Building Officials Association; Donald Cochran and Justin Thomas, Wasco County electrical inspectors; and Rachel Dodson and Lisa Osbourn, Wasco County permit technicians.

Ms. Schaffeld noted current efforts to recruit youth into the industry. Malheur Education Service District (ESD) will have its summer intern program again (one intern will be with the Building Department and a second intern will be placed with a local contractor); TVCC's (Treasure Valley Community College) electrical apprenticeship program was changed to a degree program and is now financial aid eligible; and the mechanical and plumbing apprenticeship programs may be in the near future.

Ms. Schaffeld read the proclamation.

Building Safety Month – May 2026

WHEREAS our County is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depends on the safety and essential role our homes, buildings and infrastructure play, both in everyday life and when disasters strike, and;

WHEREAS our confidence in the resilience of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, plumbers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

WHEREAS these guardians are dedicated members of the International Code Council (ICC), a nonprofit that brings together local, state, territorial, tribal and federal officials who are experts in

the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes and standards to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work and play, and;

WHEREAS these modern building codes and standards include safeguards to protect the public from hazards such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods and earthquakes, and;

WHEREAS Building Safety Month is sponsored by ICC to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown protectors of public safety—our code officials—who assure us of safe, sustainable and affordable buildings that are essential to our prosperity, and;

WHEREAS “Built to Last” the theme for Building Safety Month 2026, encourages us all to get involved and raise awareness about building safety on a personal, local and global scale, and;

WHEREAS each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, people all over the world are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety, resilience and economic investment at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal building safety and fire prevention departments, in protecting lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the County Court of Malheur County, Oregon, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, we encourage our citizens to join us as we participate in Building Safety Month activities.

Commissioner Mendiola moved to declare May 2026 as Building Safety Month in Malheur County. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

### **PROCLAMATION – SAFE BOATING WEEK**

JP Carey, representative of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, met with the Court and presented a proclamation for Safe Boating Week. Mr. Carey read the proclamation.

#### SAFE BOATING WEEK

WHEREAS, Malheur County is home to rivers, reservoirs, and waterways that provide residents and visitors with opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, safe boating practices are essential to protecting lives, preventing accidents, and ensuring that these waterways remain a source of enjoyment for all; and

WHEREAS, the observance of National Safe Boating Week, held annually in the United States during the week preceding Memorial Day, will take place May 16–22, 2026, and serves to promote boating safety education, responsible operation, and the consistent use of life jackets; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard and its partners encourage all boaters to wear properly fitted life jackets, avoid alcohol while operating watercraft, remain attentive to weather and water conditions, and complete boating safety education courses; and

WHEREAS, increasing awareness of safe boating practices will help reduce preventable accidents and save lives throughout our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Malheur County Court hereby proclaims May 16–22, 2026 as: SAFE BOATING WEEK in Malheur County, Oregon, and encourages all residents and visitors to prioritize boating safety, wear life jackets, and practice responsible recreation on our waterways.

Commissioner Mendiola moved to declare the week of May 16-22, 2026 as Safe Boating Week. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

#### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - SECTION 5310; 5311 FORMULA APPLICATION**

One application for funding in response to the County's Request for Proposals for eligible transportation providers to apply for Federal assistance under 49 U.S.C. Section 5310, Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program was received. MCOA&CS (Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services) Transportation Manager Brittany White explained that the STIF (State Transportation Improvement Fund) Advisory Committee reviewed, evaluated, and scored the application; and recommended award to the applicant, Malheur Council on Aging & Community Services. The initial application is due to ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) by May 14, 2026 and the final application is due to ODOT July 16, 2026. Funding is for the 2027/2029 biennium.

Ms. White also requested the County submit the Section 5311 grant application for the 2027/2029 biennium.

Commissioner Mendiola moved to award the Section 5310 to MCOA&CS and authorized submittal of the 5310 grant application (after the protest period has expired); and moved to authorize submittal of the Section 5311 grant application. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

### **CROSSING PERMITS**

Judge Joyce moved to approve Crossing Permit #20-26 to Idaho Power for work on Recla Drive #1113; Permit #21-26 to Mountain Limited/CenturyLink for work on Chester Road #901; and Permit #22-26 to CenturyLink/Crown Utilities for emergency work on Alberta Avenue #768. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

Vote: DJ/JM in favor. Approved.

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of April 15, 2026 as written. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

### **AGREEMENT – CATALYST**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Professional Services Agreement with Catalyst Public Policy Advisors, LLC. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. Catalyst will assist the County with the application process for submission of two census tracts to the Opportunity Zone 2.0 Program managed by Business Oregon. (Commissioner Jacobs previously reviewed the agreement and indicated his support of the agreement to staff.) See instrument # 2026-1441

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

### **FAIR ADVISORY BOARD**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to appoint Kyle Nebeker to the Fair Advisory Board. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

### **GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION - ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Grant Application Resolution for the Department of Revenue's County Assessment Function Funding Assessment (CAFFA) Program. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. By approving the resolution, the County agrees to appropriate budgeted dollars based on 100 percent of the expenditures certified in the grant application amount of \$1,518,641. See instrument #2026-1440

### **BOILER – JAIL**

Ms. DuBois noted that the main boiler in the Jail went out. Replacement estimates are being sought. Both boilers were last replaced in April 2018. The main boiler has over 600,000 hours on it.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved.