

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**May 6, 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 # 2026-1598

**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; and answered questions from the Court members. Also present was ASD (Ambulance Service District) Coordinator Keith Ishida. Ms. Land explained that TVP is making payments on outstanding dispatch fees and is two quarters ahead on payments.

TVP currently has five full-time medics; a part-time medic who works 36 hours a week (48 is full-time). It takes 7, and ideally 8, to run the service as TVP would prefer. Three individuals currently have passed their schools paramedic test; now they need to take the national test and then they will start the 3-6 month training process with TVP (with a 2-year commitment to TVP). Three EMTs have recently passed their Advanced test and will take the national test; and a fourth EMT will take his Advanced test and the national test. Ms. Land explained that the amendments made to the personal services contract in the past was done out of an abundance of caution. TVP is providing three ALS (Advanced Life Support) ambulances; keeping Advanced in Nyssa all the time (very infrequent times of Basics in Nyssa); and more times than not, there is also the additional paramedic chase car. In the event that TVP only has one medic, Malheur County does not suffer, TVP will not take transfers and stays in the County and keeps everything covered. TVP also utilizes a state fire marshal who is a paramedic.

Ms. Land expressed mixed feelings for the request for the ASD Coordinator to provide paramedic service for the providers in the county as she felt it would be hard to keep everything separate. Additionally, she voiced concern that for some agencies it would be volunteer and for TVP it would be paid and how that may change the dynamics as far as being the same across the board. But, it is nice to have an extra medic available, to pull in a chase car, in super busy situations. TVP does have mutual aid capabilities with Parma and Payette County (haven't needed). TVP does help cover Payette County and Washington County frequently. There are also three medics that could be put on the roster but they do not meet TVP's qualifications. TVP is providing internships for paramedics (Payette County is not due to staffing).

TVP had approximately 4000 calls for service last year; 800-900 were non-transport/standbys/etc. that typically have no financial reimbursement. TVP is still paying the GEMT tax; the payment amount going out is manageable, but knowing when the payments are going to come back still isn't clear.

Ms. Land is on the Oregon Health Authority Rural Advisory Committee that is helping restructure the ambulance rules.

TVP's obligation to the Foundation has been completed.

### **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Planning Director Kelsie Haueter met with the Court. Ms. Haueter requested authorization to terminate the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Adrian and City of Jordan Valley for floodplain administration services; 90-day notice is required. Ms. Haueter is an underfill as Planning Director, she is taking FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Assistance) floodplain courses, and the department is short staffed. A list of engineers that may be able to assist with floodplain management will be given to the cities. Consensus was to terminate the IGAs (Intergovernmental Agreement) with Adrian and Jordan Valley.

### **PROCLAMATION – CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY WEEK**

Undersheriff Dave Kesey, Lieutenant Rachel Reyna, Sheriff Travis Johnson, Sergeant Zinie, Deputy Giddens, Deputy Legg, and Deputy Hagon met with the Court and presented a Proclamation declaring May 4-10, 2026 as Correctional Deputy Week. Undersheriff Kesey expressed appreciation for the work of those who work in corrections. Undersheriff Kesey read the Proclamation.

#### **PROCLAMATION CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY WEEK**

**MAY 4-10, 2026**

**BY THE MALHEUR COUNTY COURT, OREGON**

WHEREAS, since 1984 the Congress of the United States, and the President of the United States have established the first week of May as National Correctional Officers' Week; and

WHEREAS, Malheur County considers the services of the Sheriff's Correctional Deputies to be critical to the interest of the community; and

WHEREAS, Corrections employees model ethical and pro-social behaviors while holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior and future victimization; and

WHEREAS, Corrections Deputies are highly trained and productive members of the County workforce; 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 member of the corrections staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Malheur County Court proclaims the week of May 4-10, 2026 to be Malheur County Corrections Week. We invite all residents to observe this week in honor of our Corrections Deputies who help to protect our health and safety.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to proclaim the week of May 4-10, 2026 as Malheur County Corrections Week and expressed appreciation for the Sheriff's Correctional Deputies. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

### **OWYHEE WATERSHED COUNCIL – 2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

Michaelann Seiders, Nicole Sullivan and Megan Wright met with the Court and provided an annual update on activities of the Owyhee Watershed Council and answered questions from the Court members. The Council receives an OWEB (Owyhee Watershed Enhancement Board) Capacity Grant that provides funding support for staffing and the facility. The 2023-2025 biennium grant was closed out in August 2025; and the 2025-2027 Capacity grant was funded. Owyhee Field Days was held at the dam with numerous Malheur county schools attending and three Idaho schools. Approximately 800 5th graders attended along with 100 FFA (Future Farmers of America) students.

Ms. Sullivan is filling the irrigation and water quality management role for the Council. The Council was awarded \$120,000 for the Small Grants Program this biennium. These funds will be used for six small grants projects. Funding has not been granted through the Large Grants Program in recent cycles. In conjunction with OSU (Oregon State University), grant funding was received that established an irrigation collaborative; meetings are held quarterly. Other efforts include: working on a TA (Technical Assistance) grant for engineering design for a project in the Napton area (flood to sprinkler conversions and lateral piping); working on a lateral piping project west of Adrian with Owyhee Irrigation District; and possibly developing an irrigation priority area in the Rockville area.

Ms. Wright is the Malheur Rangeland Partnership Coordinator. The Partnership is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Malheur rangelands. It is a coalition of multiple diverse stakeholders including private landowners and producers, state, federal, and county agencies. Some of the current projects are: a seeding project with Fish and Wildlife for the 2024 wildfires; a wildfire recovery planning OWEB (Owyhee Watershed Enhancement Board) grant that includes multiple

partners; Highway 20 Wildlife Safe Passage Project; and completing the charter documents for the Rangeland Partnership and working on geographic prioritization and grants.

The JV (Jordan Valley) CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area) Coordinator retired the end of February; a new coordinator is expected to start next month. Appreciation was expressed to County Weed Inspector Amanda Zander for efforts in helping to secure funding to support the position.

### **UNCOLLECTIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES**

Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth and Management Assistant Angie Micheli met with the Court. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Order GO-09-26: In the Matter of Uncollectible Taxes on Personal Property Situated within Malheur County and the Cancellation Thereof. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. One account was cancelled; total charge off is \$302.30. See instrument # 2026-1599

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

### **CROSSING PERMITS**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #23-26 to Lightspeed Networks to install new fiber optic cable on SW 18th Avenue #887. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permit 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 April 22, 2026 as written. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. (Commissioner Jacobs abstained as he was not present on April 22, 2026.)

Vote: JM/DJ in favor. Approved.

### **CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to sign the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department County Parks Assistance Program Certification Statement for July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The estimated RV (Recreational Vehicle) fee revenue distribution for Malheur County is \$28,536 which will be budgeted in the Marine and Parks budget. See instrument # 2026-1600

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

### **TVCC TRADES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to authorize County Building Official Adele Schaffeld to serve on the Treasure Valley Community College's (TVCC) Industry Advisory Committee for Trades and Construction Programs. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Grant Application Resolution for the Department of Revenue's County Assessment Function Funding Assessment (CAFFA) Program. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. 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 \$1,681,998. This resolution replaces the resolution that was previously signed on April 22, 2026; the expenditure amount has been revised. See instrument #2026-1601

### **PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 238**

Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Ordinance No. 238: An Ordinance Amending the Malheur County Building Code Title 5, Chapter 3, Section 15 of the Malheur County Code; and Declaring an Emergency. Notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer on April 15, 2026 and on the County website. Judge Joyce read the ordinance in its entirety and asked for public comments. No written comments were received. Ms. Schaffeld explained this does not remove the ability to appeal a building official's ruling, rather it expedites the appeal process. There is no need for a local appeal board as a local appeal board cannot interpret or modify the State code. An appeal should be filed directly to the State Building Code Division.

Judge Joyce closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to adopt Ordinance No. 238: An Ordinance Amending the Malheur County Building Code Title 5, Chapter 3, Section 15 of the Malheur County Code; and Declaring an Emergency. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-1602

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

### **PROJECT HOPE UPDATE; OPIOID FUNDING**

Lifeways CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Steve Jensen met with the Court. The groundbreaking for Project Hope is May 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.; Mr. Jensen briefly reviewed the draft agenda for the groundbreaking event; various individuals will speak at the event with an open house to follow.

Mr. Jensen requested the Court allocate \$500,000 of Opioid Settlement funds to be used for building funds for the facility that will provide withdrawal management services for individuals with opioid use disorder. This use of the funding is an approved use under the opioid settlement agreement (Category 1 – Preventative). Commissioner Jacobs moved to authorize the expenditure

of \$500,000 in Opioid Settlement funds to Lifeways for building funds for the building that will provide withdrawal management services. 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.