

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
May 27, 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 Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski and County Surveyor Derrick McKrola. 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 # 2026-1878

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Riley Hill with Poverty to Prosperity (P2P) met with the Court and presented a resolution for their consideration. Mr. Hill explained that Poverty to Prosperity has been working to implement an electrical and plumbing apprenticeship program at the high school level. Mr. Hill has had discussions with BOLI (Bureau of Labor and Industries) about the need to offer an apprenticeship program at the high school level as the current pre-apprenticeship program does not count toward an apprenticeship license. Currently BOLI regulations require a minimum age of 18 and have high apprentice to journeyman ratio requirements. Idaho allows for apprenticeship programs beginning at the age of 16 and has much lower apprentice to journeyman ratios. Ontario, Nyssa and Vale school districts are in support of a high school apprenticeship program.

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Resolution No. R26-20 - In the Matter of: Resolution in Support of a New Plumbing and Electrical Apprenticeship Program for High School Students in Malheur County; and Oregon. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-1879

See instrument # 2026-1880 for support letters from the cities of Ontario, Nyssa and Vale; Treasure Valley Community College; Malheur County Education Service District; and the school districts of Ontario, Nyssa and Vale.

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

SUBDIVISION PLAT

County Surveyor Derrick McKrola met with the Court and presented a subdivision plat for the Court's consideration. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Baja Falls II Subdivision Plat, in the city of Nyssa. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-1877

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

Mr. McKrola left the meeting.

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve the following Crossing Permits to Rod Macsween/ Explor Geoscience USA to conduct geological surveys using county roads: Permit #26-26 for Airport Road #1100; Permit #27-26 for Bench Road #1010; Permit #28-26 for Borge Lane #650; Permit #29-26 for Canyon Two Road #1069; Permit #30-26 for Clark Blvd #857; Permit #31-26 for Community Road #932; Permit #32-26 for Desert Glen Road #1058; Permit #33-26 for Enterprise Avenue #662; Permit #34-26 for Fairview Drive #855; Permit #35-26 for Foothill Drive #869; Permit #36-26 for Foxtail Road #836; Permit #37-26 for Frontier Lane #873; Permit #38-26 for Greenfield Road #1009; Permit #39-26 for Heritage Road #553; Permit #40-26 for Janeta Lane #1043; Permit #41-26 for Kingman Road #957; Permit #42-26 for Klamath Avenue #774; Permit #43-26 for Lagoon Drive #869; Permit #44-26 for Lytle Blvd #570; Permit #45-26 for Miller Road #833; Permit #46-26 for NW 36th Street #537; Permit #47-26 for Overstreet Road #839; Permit #48-26 for Railroad Avenue #874; Permit #49-26 for Ridgeview Road #1053; Permit #50-26 for Rock Springs Canyon Road #850; Permit #51-26 for SE 2nd Avenue #871; Permit #52-26 for Stage Road #1011; Permit #53-26 for Townley Road #609; Permit #54-26 for Whitney Road #3569; and Permit #55-26 for Bully Creek Road #612. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

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

DROUGHT DECLARATION

Lieutenant Rich Harriman met with the Court and presented a resolution declaring a state of emergency within Malheur County due to severe drought conditions. Also present was Sheriff Travis Johnson. Lieutenant Harriman read the Declaration. Thirteen other Oregon Counties and Tribes have filed drought declarations. Conditions could likely result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, shortened growing season and decreased water supplies for Malheur County agricultural and livestock producers. Extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate suffering of people and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires. It is requested that Governor Kotek declare a Drought Emergency for all of Malheur County and direct the Oregon Department of Water Resources to make available in Malheur County Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits, Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement; and other federal and state drought assistance and programs as needed.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R26-19: In the Matter of Declaring a State of Emergency Within Malheur County; and moved to sign a letter to the Oregon Water Resources Department regarding the drought declaration. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-1881 and #2026-1882

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

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of May 20, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

FLAP APPLICATION

Mr. Rembowski explained he is preparing an application for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for Lake Owyhee Road/Owyhee Reservoir Road improvements (below the dam, essentially from Overstreet Road up to the reservoir). The application must be done in unison and approved by the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) district manager. If the application is successful, appropriations would be in 2029-2031. Commissioner Mendiola moved to sign a letter of support for the FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) application. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-1883

Vote: JM/RJ/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.

** SAVNS Intergovernmental Agreement #7144 between Department of Corrections and Malheur County Sheriff's Office recorded as instrument #2026-1939. The IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) allows the Sheriff's Office to participate in SAVNS (statewide automated victim notification system).

** Intergovernmental Agreement #7189 between Department of Corrections and Malheur County Community Corrections for use of the ENFORCER Program is recorded as instrument #2026-1940

** Amendment No. 01 to Oregon State Marine Board Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement No. IGA 250-2527MALHEUR-000 for fiscal year 2025-2027 is recorded as instrument #2026-1948