

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

June 24, 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, ASD (Ambulance Service District) Coordinator Keith Ishida, and 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 # 2026-2167

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 239

Present for the second public hearing on Ordinance No. 239: An Ordinance Amending Malheur County Code Title 6, Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Section A, Chapter 4, Chapter 6 and Chapter 12; and Title 7, Chapter 1; and Declaring an Emergency were: County Counsel Stephanie Williams, Planning Director Kelsie Haueter; and Morgan Snyder with Winterbrook Planning.

Judge Joyce opened the hearing.

The Court had no further questions concerning the ordinance. The ordinance codifies State and administrative rule changes applicable to resource lands.

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

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Ordinance No. 239: An Ordinance Amending Malheur County Code Title 6, Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Section A, Chapter 4, Chapter 6 and Chapter 12; and Title 7, Chapter 1; and Declaring an Emergency. See instrument # 2026-2168 for the staff report and instrument # 2026-2171 for Ordinance 239.

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

SECTION 5310 RURAL APPORTIONMENT

MCOA&CS (Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services) Transportation Manager Brittany White explained that the Section 5310 Program for the 2027-2029 biennium included a new funding allocation known as Rural Apportionment Funds. The County issued a request for proposals for the Section 5310 Program funding for two separate funding sources: 5310 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds and Rural Apportionment Funds. The STBG funds were awarded to MCOA (Malheur Council on Aging) in April; no applications were received for the Rural Apportionment funding and those funds remain unallocated. MCOA has applied for the Rural Apportionment funds; the STIF (Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund) Advisory Committee reviewed the application and recommended awarding the funds to MCOA&CS.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to award the 5310 Rural Apportionment funding to MCOA for the 2027-2029 biennium. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of June 17, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Judge Joyce moved to authorize Commissioner Jacobs to sign as Planning Director when necessary while Planning Director Kelsie Haueter is on leave. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Jacobs abstained.

Vote: DJ/JM in favor. Approved.

VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH CARE AGREEMENT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve First Amendment to Amended and Restated Affiliation Agreement for Medical Services in the Malheur County Jail Recorded with the Malheur County Clerk as instrument #2024-1952. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement is extended to June 30, 2029; and includes the compensation for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. See instrument # 2026-2169

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

IGA WITH HARNEY COUNTY

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Harney County and Malheur County for Inspection of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Harney County's Environmental Health Specialist will provide onsite wastewater treatment services in Malheur County one day a week at a rate of \$68.00 per hour, plus mileage and other actual expenses, and a 10% administrative fee. Malheur County's current onsite fees are low and have not been updated in many years; the Court may need to consider raising the fees. The IGA with Harney County expires October 1, 2026. See instrument # 2026-2170

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

PUBLIC HEARING – ADOPTION OF ASD BUDGET

The Court met as the governing body of the Ambulance Service District (ASD). Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution R26-15 adopting the Ambulance Service District budget; notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer. Changes to some line-

items were made to the budget at the recommendation of the ASD Advisory Board; those changes were provided to the Court members in advance of the hearing and are attached to the resolution. No public comments were received. The hearing was closed. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R26-15: In the Matter of the Adoption of a Budget and Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2026/27 as Required by ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 294.456. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Total Appropriation is: \$274,470. See instrument # 2026-2172

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

PUBLIC HEARING – ADOPTION OF COUNTY BUDGET

Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution R26-16 adopting the County budget; notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer. No public comments were received. Judge Joyce, Commissioner Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola each declared an actual conflict of interest as their salaries are included in the County budget. Several changes were made to the Approved Budget prior to adoption; those changes were provided to the Court members in advance of the hearing and are attached to the resolution. Commissioner Jacobs noted that \$35,000 was added to the Surveyor's budget for the purchase of a vehicle and accessories (\$35,000 is also in the Corner Preservation Fund for the vehicle). Commissioner Jacobs also expressed appreciation to the County Budget Committee and Ms. DuBois for their work with the budget. The hearing was closed. Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Resolution R26-16: In the Matter of the Adoption of a Budget and Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2026/27 as Required by ORS 294.456. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The total sum of the budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year is \$72,507,240; and the tax rate is \$2.5823 per \$1,000 of assessed value. See instrument # 2026-2173

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

PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF EXTENSION TAX DISTRICT BUDGET

The Court met as the governing body of the Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District. Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution 26-17 adopting the Extension tax district budget; notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer. No changes were made to the Approved Budget. No public comments were received. The hearing was closed. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R26-17: In the Matter of the Adoption of a Budget and Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2026/27 as Required by ORS 294.456. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Total Appropriation is \$2,406,353 and the tax rate is \$0.23 per \$1,000 of assessed value. See instrument # 2026-2174

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

COMMITTED FUND BALANCES

Judge Joyce moved that the Malheur County Court hereby report the 2025/2026 ending fund balances of the following Special Revenue Funds as "Committed Fund Balances". These committed fund balance amounts can only be used for the specific purposes for which they were imposed unless the Malheur County Court removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (legislation, resolution, or ordinance) it employed to previously commit those amounts. The Special Revenue Funds are: Major Bridge, Surveyor Corner Preservation, Community Corrections, Law Library, Boat License, Corrections Assessment, DA (District Attorney) Enforcement, Taylor Grazing, Task Force, Ambulance Service District, Juvenile Crime Prevention, Federal Forfeitures Fund, Agricultural Educational Extension Service District, LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund), 911 Fund, Traffic Safety, Court Facilities Security, State Drug Court, State Mediation, CVSO (County Veterans Services Officer) Expansion, Search & Rescue, GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Maintenance, Clerk's Record Fund, Special Transportation Fund, Work Release Construction, Economic Development, American Rescue Plan, Opioid Settlement, and Grasshopper Fund. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This motion is effective as of June 24, 2026.

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

Mr. McKrola left the meeting.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT SESSION

ASD Coordinator Keith Ishida presented the ASD Advisory Board's recommendations for funding distributions for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to the local emergency medical services agencies operating within the County. The ASD Advisory Board reviewed and discussed the request for funding applications submitted by the EMS (Emergency Management Services) agencies in a public meeting and recommended award as follows:

Treasure Valley Paramedics (TVP) - \$42,548.46

Vale Fire & Ambulance - \$9,998.00

Ontario Fire & Rescue - \$23,722.16

Jordan Valley Ambulance - \$10,284.70

Adrian Quick Response Unit (QRU) - \$9,908.06

TOTAL: \$96,461.38

Mr. Ishida noted the request for funding process is done early in the calendar year and as such the funds available for distribution to the providers was much lower than anticipated; in order to honor the funding recommendations made by the Advisory Board adjustments were made to the

2026/2027 budget (as reflected in the resolution adopting the budget done earlier in today's meeting). Mr. Ishida is also actively seeking grant opportunities and other funding options to strengthen the District's financial standing. The Advisory Board has asked that the request for funding process be completed in June and that a policy and procedure guide be drafted for the request for funding process; Mr. Ishida is working on this.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve the funding allocations as recommended by the ASD Advisory Board. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-2196 for the ASD Advisory Board's recommendations.

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

Mr. Ishida also discussed the current assessment that supports the Ambulance Service District. The current assessment rates have been in place for approximately 30 years. The ASD Advisory Board supports a ballot measure asking the voters to increase the assessment.

The current assessment for residential properties is \$16.00 per residence; and it is proposed to increase that rate to \$29.00 per residence.

Apartment complexes and assisted living (for profit) facilities are currently assessed \$16.00 per apartment; it is proposed to increase that rate to \$29.00 per apartment.

Hotels/Motels and RV parks are currently assessed a \$16.00 base charge and \$2.50 per room/RV space; it is proposed to increase the base charge to \$29.00 and \$5.00 per room/RV space.

Mobile home courts are assessed \$16.00 per mobile home; it is proposed to increase that rate to \$29.00 per mobile home.

Businesses are assessed \$16.00 and \$1.50 per full time employee; it is proposed to increase the assessment to \$29.00 and \$3.00 per full time employee.

Nursing homes are currently exempt from the assessment.

The current assessment structure generates approximately \$190,000 annually. The increased assessment structure would generate approximately \$380,000 annually.

Increased revenue could be allocated to disposable medical supplies/small equipment; direct payments to providers through the request for funding process; increase the ASD Coordinator from part-time to full-time, supervising physician compensation, as well as increasing other areas of the budget. A hypothetical budget and explanation of the budget is included in the Court's packet prepared by Mr. Ishida.

The Court members suggested potentially increasing the assessment over a period of 2-3 years; Mr. Ishida will prepare a new proposal. If the matter is to be put on the November ballot there is limited time to prepare the ballot measure as the deadline to file with the Clerk's Office is in August.

See instrument # 2026-2197 for the written summary provided to the Court.

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.