

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

June 25, 2025

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. 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, Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski, Heather Land with Treasure Valley Paramedics (TVP), and Shawn Logan, attorney for TVP. 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 # 2025-2151

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 R25-13 adopting the Ambulance Service 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. Judge Joyce closed the hearing. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R25-13: In the Matter of the Adoption of a Budget and Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2025/26 as Required by ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 294.456. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Total Appropriation is: \$313,320. See instrument # 2025-2152

TREASURE VALLEY PARAMEDICS

Mr. Logan explained that he and Ms. Land were present for the discussion and possible decision concerning the repayment plan with TVP and the County for past dispatch fees. TVP has requested a 5-year repayment plan for the past dispatch fees (\$73,000). Commissioner Jacobs noted the matter has been previously discussed and that he recognizes the financial challenges for TVP; and moved to approve a 5-year repayment plan, with no interest, with TVP for the \$73,000. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Logan and Ms. Land left the meeting.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of June 18, 2025 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

FAIR ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Jacobs moved to appoint Misty King to the Fair Advisory Board. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION (CinA) GRANT APPLICATION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to support Community in Action's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESC) application. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Funding will assist with shelter operations, and homeless and street outreach services. See instrument # 2025-2153

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 25-14 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. Judge Joyce closed the hearing. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R25-14: In the Matter of the Adoption of a Budget and Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2025/26 as Required by ORS 294.456. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Total Appropriation is \$2,366,015 and the tax rate is \$0.23 per \$1,000 of assessed value. See instrument # 2025-2154

PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF COUNTY BUDGET

Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution R25-15 adopting the County budget; notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer. No public comments were received. Several changes were made to the Approved Budget prior to adoption and Ms. DuBois provided those changes to the Court members in advance of the hearing; changes in the General Fund include increasing the Physicians Services Contract in the Jail budget, additional Homeland Security Grant funds in the Emergency Management budget, adding back to the budget Contracted Services in the Planning and Zoning budget, adding funding for a portion of the Marine Deputy in the Sheriff's Office budget due to a reduction in State Marine Board funds (loss of the Marine Board funds is reflected in the Boat License budget), several adjustments to the Marine and Park budget (removal of MAP (Maintenance Assistance Program) Funds, increasing Caretaker salary, and breaking out the expenses into numerous line items to provide greater clarification of expenses), adding \$2,000 in Tax/Treasurer Fees, increasing WIC (Women, Infants and Children) funding and Health Specialist expense in the Health Department budget, and adding funds for Dues and Time Tracking in the Administrative Office budget. Funding was moved in the Community Corrections budget to allow for a key employee who is retiring to work additional hours for training purposes with the new-hire; additionally, Community Corrections is receiving additional DOC (Department of Corrections) Grant in Aid funding and Reinvestment Grant funding than was anticipated – this is due to increasing supervision numbers and it is proposed to hire an additional P&P Officer; and the Fair received a facility improvement grant. Commissioner Mendiola requested the County Surveyor be increased from 37.5 to 40 hours per week. Commissioner Jacobs concurred with Commissioner Mendiola. Judge Joyce stated the hearing would be continued to later in the meeting to allow time for Ms. DuBois to change the budget documents. Mr. McKrola expressed support for the possible implementation of an electronic Time Tracking system.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Sheriff Travis Johnson and Lieutenant Jim St. Michell met with the Court. Sheriff Johnson and Lt. St. Michell provided additional information on the increase in Grant in Aid and Reinvestment funding and the request to hire an additional P&P deputy to accommodate the rise in persons on

supervision. The new position would be assigned to the Downward Departures caseload. Last biennium a P&P deputy was requested to cover the Downward Departures caseload and it was anticipated there would be approximately 35-40 offenders in that caseload; there are currently 69 offenders in the Downward Departures caseload. Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve the hiring of one additional P&P deputy in the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 237

Judge Joyce opened the first public hearing for consideration of Ordinance No. 237: An Ordinance Permitting Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the Rural Residential Zone. Notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer on June 18, 2025. The ordinance would allow for one accessory dwelling unit, no larger than 900 square feet on a lot at least two acres in size in a rural residential zone not within an urban reserve area (with an existing single-family dwelling); the ADU is to be served by the same water source as the existing dwelling, be served by the same septic system if feasible, and the ADU shall be no further than 100 feet from the existing dwelling (and not attached to the existing dwelling). No written comments were received. No public comments were received. A second public hearing is scheduled for July 9, 2025. Judge Joyce closed the hearing.

Mr. Rembowski left the meeting.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – GRASSHOPPER GRANT AGREEMENT

Casey Prentiss with Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) reported on grasshoppers and Mormon crickets. ODA did scouting and the numbers are low for grasshoppers and a few Mormon crickets were found. Landowners in the southern part of the county report large numbers of crickets in Idaho. Lake, Klamath, and Crook counties have a significant amount of grasshoppers. The Court members discussed if they wanted to accept the Oregon Department of Agriculture grant funds for mitigation of grasshoppers/Mormon Crickets on agricultural crops. If the County does not accept the funding the funds would be divided up among the other five counties that have grasshopper/Mormon cricket funding allocations. The County can carry the funding over if not expended in this season. Funding can also be used to contract directly with ODA for future surveying efforts. (There will be no further surveying through ODA as its funding is depleted.) The County could also distribute some of its funding to another county in need later in the year. After discussion, Commissioner Mendiola moved to sign Oregon Department of Agriculture Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket General Fund Allocation Grant 2025 Grant Agreement – Grant #GHMC-6-2025. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #2025-2160

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF COUNTY BUDGET

Judge Joyce continued the public hearing for adoption of the County budget. Ms. DuBois presented the changes to the budget as requested by the Court (increasing the Surveyor position to 40 hours per week). Judge Joyce closed the hearing. Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Resolution

R25-15: In the Matter of the Adoption of a Budget and Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2025/26 as Required by ORS 294.456. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The total sum of the budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year is \$69,611,201; and the tax rate is \$2.5823 per \$1,000 of assessed value. See instrument # 2025-2156 for the document listing the changes to the Approved budget prior to Adoption; and instrument # 2025-2155 for Resolution R25-15.

COMMITTED FUND BALANCES

Judge Joyce moved that the Malheur County Court hereby report the 2024/2025 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 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, and Opioid Settlement. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This motion is effective as of June 25, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Joyce asked for public comments; there were none.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

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

****Due to recent updates to OAR's (Oregon Administrative Rules) addressing Early Learning Hubs, the Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub Bylaws were updated. Under OAR 414-900-0110 the Governance Council (Hub Board) is an independent body responsible for oversight of Early Learning Hub operations. The Governance Council will now appoint board members. The Court will no longer appoint board members or approve bylaws. See instrument # 2025-2203 for amended Eastern Oregon Learning Hub Bylaws.**