

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

July 1, 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, County Counsel Stephanie Williams 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 # 2026-2288

AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT (ASD) SESSION

ASD Coordinator Keith Ishida and the Court continued discussions regarding a proposal to increase the ASD assessment. At the Court's request, Mr. Ishida prepared a proposal for a phased assessment increase. The phased approach would allow the assessment to increase gradually over a three-year period. The phased assessment proposal also includes a three-year investment plan, identifying areas where the additional revenue would be directed each year to strengthen provider support. Ms. Williams shared a draft resolution with a sample ballot title, question and summary for referring the matter to the voters; there is a word count limit and it is somewhat difficult to formulate the phased assessment approach in the limited word count allowed for a ballot measure. A statement should also be drafted for the voter's pamphlet; that statement needs to be factual and neutral. The assessment is a fixed fee; it is not based on value. The assessment has been at its current rate since 1996 (\$16.00). Increasing the assessment by \$15.00 over a three-year period is somewhat of a delayed investment in the District; for example, as proposed it would not allow for the ASD Coordinator to work additional hours until 2029. If the Court is going to put the matter on the November 2026 ballot, the resolution and associated documents need to be filed with the County Clerk's Office by July 15th. The Court will continue to consider the proposal and further discuss at its next meeting.

See instrument # 2026-2289 for the written proposal provided to the Court.

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Crossing Permit #59-26 to CenturyLink/Crown Utilities for repair of damage conduit and fiber on Alameda Drive #863; Permit #60-26 to Rally Networks for burying of fiber optic communications cable on Kygar Road #954; and the following Crossing Permits to Oregon Telephone Cooperative for fiber cable installation: Permit # 61-26 on 2nd Street #764; Permit #62-26 on 4th Street #706; Permit #63-26 on A Street #805; Permit #64-26 on Amick Road #715; Permit #65-26 on B Street #1130; Permit #66-26 on Back Road #764; Permit #67-26 on Beal Ranch Road #577; Permit # 68-26 on Bendire Road #538; Permit #69-26 on Beulah Road #510; Permit #70-26 on Brooks Lane #1114; Permit #71-26 on Coleman Road #614; Permit #72-26 on Copeland Road #615; Permit #73-26 on Crowley Road/Coleman Road #585; Permit #74-26 on Harper Road #805; Permit #75-26 on Hornet Road #764; and Permit #76-

26 on Little Valley Road #698. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

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

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of June 24, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Accounts Payable Registers for February, March, April and May 2026. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

AGREEMENT – REMBOWSKI

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve First Amendment to Agreement between Malheur County Court and Taylor Rembowski – stipend/supplemental compensation for duties of Executive Director to Malheur County Development Corporation (MCDC) recorded with Malheur County Clerk as instrument no. 2026-1121. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement terminates June 30, 2027. See instrument # 2026-2290

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

AGREEMENT – DUBOIS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Second Amendment to Agreement between Malheur County Court and Lorinda DuBois – Pay differential for reporting and accounting duties associated with LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds recorded with the Malheur County Clerk as instrument number 2023-2873. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement terminates June 30, 2027. See instrument # 2026-2291

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

Ms. Williams noted the Court had a proposed Supplemental Pay policy for their review. The policy will be placed on the Court's agenda at a future date.

AMENDMENT - ODOT AGREEMENT – STIF

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Amendment Number 1 to ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) Grant Agreement No. 35853 State STIF (Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Exhibit D is

replaced in its entirety with the STIF Plan 2025-27 last updated 3/24/26. See instrument #2026-2307

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

SUBAGREEMENT AMENDMENT – MCOA

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve First Amendment to Sub-Agreement with Sub-recipient Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services (MCOA&CS) to Provide Funding for the 2025-2027 STIF Plan Agreement No. 35853 – State STIF recorded with the Malheur County Clerk as instrument number 2025-3157. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-2308

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

AMENDMENT IGA 54296 – COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve First Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2026-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Community Mental Health Programs, Agreement # PO-44300-00054296. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The expiration date is changed to June 30, 2026. Exhibit B Service Descriptions is replaced in its entirety and Exhibit C Explanation of Financial Assistance Award is replaced in its entirety and Financial Pages is amended. See instrument #2026-2344

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

ENERGY RESILIENCE PLAN

Commissioner Jacobs moved to adopt the Malheur County Energy Resilience Plan. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-2287

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

MALHEUR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MCDC) BOARD

Commissioner Jacobs moved to appoint Shay Meskill, Shawna Peterson, and Commissioner Jim Mendiola as board members of the Malheur County Development Corporation. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Mendiola abstained.

Vote: RJ/DJ in favor. Approved.

GRASSHOPPER FUNDS

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) will provide the County with an estimated cost for ODA to conduct a grasshopper survey. Other counties in the state are in need of funding to assist with grasshopper/Mormon cricket suppression efforts. Malheur County may contribute its funds to other counties if the surveillance does not indicate a need for suppression efforts this season.

Commissioner Jacobs has been in contact with Representative Owens, ODA and others regarding the matter.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR VACANCY

The Court requested interviews be scheduled for July 8th.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Jacobs noted he recently attended the AOC (Association of Oregon Counties) Legislative Retreat, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's (OTEC) Power Eastern Oregon event, and Oregon Water Resources Department's rulemaking open house.

Senator Wyden is hosting a town hall on Monday, July 6th; Judge Joyce and Commissioner Jacobs plan to attend.

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.