

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

July 8, 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 # 2026-2338

AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT SESSION

ASD (Ambulance Service District) Coordinator Keith Ishida and County Counsel Stephanie Williams met with the Court and continued discussions regarding a proposal to increase the ASD charge/assessment. Ms. Williams prepared a draft resolution referring the matter to the electors using the three-year phased increase as requested by the Court. The draft resolution includes a sample ballot title (Caption), Question and Summary. The chart depicted in the Summary will not appear on the actual ballot; rather it will be on an insert included in the voter's ballot packet. Ms. Williams also prepared a draft Explanatory Statement for the State Voter's Pamphlet. The Explanatory Statement must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office by August 25th and the cost is approximately \$200. A notice of ballot title and right to appeal must be published in the newspaper before the Explanatory Statement is submitted to the Secretary of State's Office. The draft Explanatory Statement was sent to the City of Ontario; Mr. Ishida will also send it to Adrian QRU (Quick Response Services) and the contracted providers (TVP (Treasure Valley Paramedics), Jordan Valley Ambulance, and City of Vale). Ontario Fire and Rescue and Adrian QRU are non-transporting EMS (Emergency Medical Services) agencies that can receive funding from ASD. Treasure Valley Paramedics, City of Vale and Jordan Valley Ambulance are pre-hospital ambulance providers; these providers contract directly with the County and receive funding from ASD. If the Court is going to put the matter on the November 2026 ballot, the resolution needs to be filed with the County Clerk's Office by July 15th. The Court will continue to consider the proposal at its next meeting.

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve the following Crossing Permits to Oregon Telephone Cooperative for fiber cable installation: Permit # 77-26 on 4th Avenue #754; Permit #78-26 on 5th Avenue #744; Permit #79-26 on 8th Avenue #1117; Permit #80-26 on Cemetery Road #1117; Permit #81-26 on Cole Street #741; Permit #82-26 on Harper Westfall Road #805; Permit #83-26 on Logan Road #605; Permit #84-26 on Malheur Reservoir Road #600; Permit #85-26 on Waters Lane #681; Permit #86-26 on Willis Street #739; Permit #87-26 on 13th Avenue W #734; Permit #88-26 on Hill Road #681; Permit #89-26 on Maag Road #111; Permit #90-26 on S Road J #1112; Permit #91-26 on S Road K #7311; Permit #92-26 on 12th Avenue # #736; Permit #93-26 on 12th Avenue W #731; Permit #94-26 on 14th Avenue West #516; Permit #95-26 on Bit Road #1101; Permit #96-26 on N Road K #727; and Permit #97-26 on S Road I #742. 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.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of July 1, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

COUNTY POLICY 209

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve County Policy 209 – Supplemental Pay for Non-Union Employees. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-2339

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

AGREEMENT - DR SMITH

Acting as the governing body of the Ambulance Service District, Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve First Amendment to Professional Service Agreement Supervising Physician to Emergency Medical Service Providers within Malheur County Recorded with the Malheur County Clerk as Instrument Number 2025-2273 with Morris H. Smith, MD (Medical Doctor). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement expires June 2027; compensation is \$500 per month. See instrument # 2026-2340

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

AMENDMENT – IGA #185822

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Amended & Restated 2025-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services, Agreement #185822-9. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The amendment awards funding for various program elements for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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

MALHEUR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MCDC) – BOARD

Commissioner Jacobs clarified that the intent of the Court last week was to appoint three new MCDC board members to replace the existing board members. Commissioner Jacobs moved to appoint Shawna Peterson, Shay Meskill, and Commissioner Jim Mendiola as board members of Malheur County Development Corporation and to remove Kay Riley, Jason Pearson, Mike Walker, Corey Maag, Grant Murakami and Ralph Poole from the MCDC Board. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Mendiola abstained.

Vote: RJ/DJ in favor. Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Judge Joyce announced the Court would recess until 2:00 p.m. at which time an Executive Session would be held.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was held in accordance with ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 192.660(2)(a) employment of public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent with Judge Joyce presiding and Commissioner Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola present. Also present were Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, Health Department Director Rebecca Stricker, and Richmond Petty.

Mr. Petty left the Executive Session; Amanda Church joined the Executive Session. No decisions were made during the session.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR VACANCY

Consensus of the Court was to authorize Ms. DuBois to make a conditional offer of employment for the Environmental Health Director to the committee's number one candidate.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.