

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

July 15, 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, Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski, and Jelisa Pantoja from Treasure Valley Paramedics. 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 # 2026-2413.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT (ASD) SESSION

ASD Coordinator Keith Ishida met with the Court and continued discussions regarding a proposal to increase the ASD charge/assessment and referring the matter to the voters. Mr. Ishida shared the draft explanatory statement with the EMS (Emergency Management Services) agencies; Ontario Fire responded and had no concerns. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R26-21: In the Matter of Referring to the Electors the Question of Increasing the Annual Fixed Charge of the Malheur County Ambulance Service District (ASD) to Provide Additional Revenue for Personnel, Supplies and Maintenance Countywide. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-2414

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

Ms. Pantoja left the meeting.

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #98-26 to Jonathan Stroman / Mastec for work on Jacobsen Gulch Road #771; and the following Crossing Permits to Oregon Telephone Cooperative for fiber cable installation: Permit # 99-26 on 9th Avenue East #742; Permit #100-26 on 9th Avenue West #511; Permit #101-26 on Farley Road #571; and Permit #102-26 on Indian Gulch Road #573. 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 8, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

GRASSHOPPER FUNDING

Commissioner Jacobs explained that Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is requesting Malheur County transfer \$50,000 of its ODA grasshopper/Mormon cricket grant funds to Klamath County to help address immediate needs in Klamath County. Malheur County will retain sufficient funds to cover 2026 survey work. Representative Owens is working on legislation to address a more permanent solution for funding to address infestations.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to transfer \$50,000 from the Grasshopper Fund to Klamath County. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Commissioner Jacobs announced that Richmond Petty accepted the Environmental Health Director position and will join Malheur County August 3rd.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Mr. Ishida and Mr. Rembowski left the meeting.

The Court recessed until 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING - RATE INCREASE FOR ONTARIO SANITARY SERVICE

Present for the public hearing for consideration of a rate increase for Ontario Sanitary Service was Travis Williams from Ontario Sanitary Service/Waste Connections. Notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer on June 24, 2026. Judge Joyce opened the hearing. A rate increase of 3% was proposed. No written comments were received; no oral comments were received. Judge Joyce closed the hearing. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve the requested rate increase. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The changes are effective August 1, 2026. See instrument # 2026-2415 for the rate schedule.

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

MEETINGS

Judge Joyce noted Koloma is holding an Open House at Four Rivers Cultural Center on July 21 and July 22, 2026. Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) is holding a meeting on July 23, 2026.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

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

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