

## **MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**

**July 22, 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, Building Official Adele Schaffeld, and Building Department Intern Isaiah Montes. 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 # 2026-2479

### **COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)- UPDATE**

Lieutenant Rich Harriman met with the Court and requested adoption of the Updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Lt. Harriman explained that in 2023 the County was awarded a grant by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office to update the CWPP; and in 2023 County contracted with Northwest Management, Inc. to update the plan. (The previous CWPP was last updated in 2009.) Collaborative planning developed through coordinated engagement between community members, local fire districts, landowners, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee to ensure shared ownership of wildfire resilience. Lt. Harriman answered questions from the Court members. Commissioner Jacobs moved to adopt the Malheur County, OR Community Wildfire Protection Plan – 2025 Plan Update. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-2493

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

### **CROSSING PERMITS**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve the following Crossing Permits to Oregon Telephone Cooperative for fiber cable installation: Permit # 103-26 on Harper Westfall Road #805; Permit #104-26 on N Road G #613; Permit #105-26 on Cow Creek Road #800; Permit #106-26 on Bully Creek Road #612; Permit #107-26 on Military Road #520; Permit #108-26 on 7th Avenue W #1091; Permit #109-26 on S Road G #512; Permit #110-26 on S Road H #1096; Permit #111-26 on N Road F #1093; Permit #112-26 on S Road F #745; Permit #113-26 on Evans Road #1090; Permit #114-26 on N Road E #1090; Permit #115-26 on 6th Avenue West #745; Permit #116-26 on S Road D #1089; Permit #117-26 on Bonita Road #551; Permit #118-26 on Bully Creek Road #612; Permit #119-26 on Clover Creek Road #536; Permit #120-26 on Dahle Road #1131; Permit #121-26 on Lawrence Road #4102; and Permit #122-26 on Old Stage Road #763. 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 15, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

### **ODOT AGREEMENT OPERATING RVHT**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Public Transportation Office, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Agreement No. 35955, Operating RVHT (Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funding is in the amount of \$20,000 for demand response service for veterans living in Malheur County to healthcare destinations in and around Malheur County and Western Idaho. See instrument # 2026-2489

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

### **AMENDMENT - ODOT AGREEMENT OPERATING 5311**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Amendment Number 1 to ODOT Grant Agreement No. 35814, Operating 5311. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The expiration date is extended to September 30, 2027 and funding is increased to \$645,298. See instrument # 2026-2488

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Jacobs noted he attended the Koloma open house at the Cultural Center regarding its geophysical surveying operations to determine if there's available natural hydrogen in the area; the open house was very informative.

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT SESSION**

Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Amended Resolution R26-21 and Election Order: 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 and Adopting a Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement to be included in the State Voters' Pamphlet. ASD Coordinator Keith Ishida explained the resolution was amended primarily to rewrite the summary as a statement, rather than an illustrative chart, and to include the explanatory statement. Notice of receipt of the ballot tile and explanatory statement will be published in the newspaper and include notice that an elector may file a petition for judicial review of the ballot title or explanatory statement with the Malheur County Circuit Court.

Judge Joyce asked for public comments; no public comments were received. Judge Joyce closed the hearing.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Amended Resolution R26-21 and Election Order: 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 and Adopting a Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-2480

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

### **MEETINGS**

- Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) are hosting a virtual briefing for commissioners on the current fire season on Thursday, July 23, 2026.
- Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) is holding a meeting on July 23, 2026.
- The Courthouse is closed from Noon – 5:00 p.m. on July 23, 2006 for an all staff training.

### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

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

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