

## **MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**

**July 23, 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, Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth and public members Lynn Findley and Kelly Johnson. 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 # 2025-2478

### **CALICO RESOURCES – GRASSY MOUNTAIN MINE PROJECT**

Paramount Gold/Calico Resources CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Rachel Goldman and Attorney Garrett Stephenson met with the Court and provided an update on the Grassy Mountain Mine Project. Also present was consultant Andy Bentz. Calico Resources has a conditional use permit from the County for the Grassy Mountain Mine on private property and a sage grouse permit for development within identified sage grouse habitat (County permits were issued in 2019 and have been kept current as the project moves through the consolidated permitting process with DOGAMI (Department of Geology and Mineral Industries) and the federal EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) process). A power-point presentation was shared with the Court. The project has been going through the permitting process for nearly ten years. Due to the project being added to the FAST-41 (Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act) list, the EIS process has recently picked up speed and the Draft EIS is expected to be published in August 2025; and the Final EIS and Record of Decision may be completed in December 2025. State draft permits may become available in August/September 2025 with final permits in early 2026.

The initial acquisition of the property was valued at approximately \$15 million; exploration, land holding costs, studies, etc. have totaled approximately \$25 million; and the current CapEx for construction and development of the mine is approximately \$136 million (this estimate will probably increase). The life of the mine is expected to be 8 plus years. The construction phase will create approximately 300 jobs and operation of the mine will create approximately 100 full time jobs.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired what road would be utilized for the project; the existing road will be upgraded and utilized.

Sage grouse mitigation discussions continue with ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife). The mitigations costs being proposed are very, very high. The project is on non-core sage grouse habitat.

See instrument # 2025-2482 for the power point presentation.

Mr. Findley and Ms. Forsyth left the meeting.

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of July 16, 2025 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **FAIR ADVISORY BOARD**

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

Commissioner Jacobs moved to appoint Dave Tiffany to the Fair Advisory Board. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Jacobs noted he had confirmed with Mr. Tiffany that serving on the Fair Advisory Board will not impact Mr. Tiffany's responsibilities as Road Supervisor.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution R25-22: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 294.471. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The purpose of the supplemental budget is to allocate funds from ODHS (Oregon Department of Human Services) Office of Resilience and Emergency Management in the Emergency Management budget that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds are to be used to purchase privacy curtains for the pop-up warming and cooling station located at the Fairgrounds.

### **SUBAGREEMENT – MCOA&CS**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Sub-Agreement with Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services (MCOA&CS) to provide public transportation to seniors and individuals with disabilities, and the general public, in Malheur County pursuant to State Agreement Number 35765, Operating 5310. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **IGA (INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT) - DD PROGRAM**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve State of Oregon Intergovernmental Grant Agreement with Oregon Department of Human Services, Agreement Number PO-10000-00047116, eXPRS Number 157833. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement is for the Community Developmental Disabilities Program (CDDP); the County will subcontract with Lifeways to provide the program services.

### **PAYMENT PLAN AGREEMENT – TVP**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Payment Plan Agreement with TVP, Inc. (Treasure Valley Paramedics). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The payment plan is for outstanding FY 2023-2024 dispatch fees. See instrument # 2025-2479

### **RESOLUTION -CDDP ADMINISTRATOR**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R25-23: Resolution Appointing County Financial Assistance Administrator/CDDP (Community Development Disabilities Program)) Administrator for the State of Oregon 2025-2027 Intergovernmental Grant Agreement (Agreement PO-10000-00047116) for the Community Developmental Disabilities Program. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. DuBois is designated as the CDDP Administrator for the agreement. See instrument # 2025-2481

### **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT – COOPER**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Employment Agreement with Chad Cooper for Bully Creek Park Grounds Keeper. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-2480

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kelly Johnson explained he would be doing crushing in the Crowley area in September or October; an excavator with a hammer will be on site that could take care of rocks in the road if the County wants to contract with Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson left the meeting.

### **IDAHO CONCRETE PROPERTY**

County Counsel Stephanie Williams and Planning Manager Kelsie Haueter discussed the Idaho Concrete property in the Ontario urban growth area (on the Snake River and in the floodplain). Several years ago, the property was issued a conditional use permit (CUP) for mining of aggregate by the County (under the joint management agreement, the City's ordinance requirements are applied). The property was mined in 1991, 2011 and 2019. Idaho Concrete encountered some compliance issues with DOGAMI and Oregon Water Resources Department; those issues are somewhat resolved. There are approximately 6 acres left that could be mined; Idaho Concrete needs to determine if it wants to apply for a CUP to mine the remaining acres or reclaim the property. Originally, the reclamation plan was to dedicate the property to the City of Ontario for a recreation area (park with fishing ponds and recreation trail). Ontario is probably no longer interested in acquiring the property. Idaho Concrete inquired if the County wants the property for a park or other recreational development. Consensus of the Court was that the County is not interested in acquiring the property for recreational development.

### **CANCELLATION OF COURT MEETING**

The Court will not meet on July 30, 2025.

### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

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