

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

August 5, 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 were Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, ASD (Ambulance Service District) Coordinator Keith Ishida, and Lieutenant Rich Harriman. 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 # 2026-2669

TREASURE VALLEY PARAMEDICS (TVP) – QUARTERLY UPDATE

TVP, Inc. Vice-President Heather Land met with the Court and provided a quarterly update per the terms of the personal services contract amendment. TVP has some concerns that will be addressed in written correspondence at a later date. TVP currently has eight full-time medics; two medics who are training; and a couple of PRNs. TVP will be addressing other concerns at the 911 User Board meeting and ASD.

TVP has not received a payment from the GEMT tax program since January (\$500 payment); TVP continues to make its payments into the program. A coding problem was identified and it is hoped that payments will be reinstated in the next 30 days.

Ms. Land is participating in the Oregon Health Authority Rule Advisory Committee; this work is going well. The Committee is considering redefining response time and scene time.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Lieutenant Rich Harriman met with the Court and presented a resolution declaring a state of emergency within the County due to wildland fires. Wildland fires in the month of July, 2026 have resulted in hundreds of thousands of acres of lost grassland, crippling agricultural loss and destruction of personal property. Lt. Harriman read the declaration in its entirety. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R26-25: In the Matter of Declaring a State of Emergency within Malheur County. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-2670

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

Evacuation levels in the Jordan Valley area were removed yesterday. Reductions in evacuation levels for the Coleman Creek Fire were made over the last two days. The incident management teams may make additional recommendations today.

Commissioner Jacobs noted the fire team camped in Vale is leaving today and going to Burns.

Lt. Harriman and Mr. Ishida left the meeting.

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #124-26 to Idaho Power to upgrade an existing pole and install an overhead transformer on Morgan Avenue #926; the following Permits to Oregon Telephone Corporation for fiber cable installation:

Permit #125-26 on S Road E #1092;

Permit #126-26 on Edith Street #3088;

Permit #127-26 on Gibbon Street #3086;

Permit #128-26 on Hildah Street #510;

Permit #129-26 on Drake Street #514;

Permit #130-26 on Shumway Road #1128;

Permit #131-26 on 1st Street #3085;

Permit #132-26 on 5th Street #3087;

Permit #133-26 on 6th Street;

Permit #134-26 on Beulah Road #510;

Permit #135-26 on Juntura Riverside Road #587;

Permit #136-26 on 4th Street #3089;

Permit #137-26 on Frances Street #3085;

Permit #138-26 on 10th Avenue East #740;

Permit #139-26 on 10th Avenue West #593;

Permit #140-26 on 11th Avenue West #515;

Permit #141-26 on 11th Avenue East #738;

Permit #142-26 on N Road H #738;

Permit #143-26 on N Road I #1516;

Permit #144-26 on Robby Copeland Road #3557; and

Permit #145-26 to Idaho Power for installation of transformers on Malheur Drive #896.

Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The 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 29, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

UPDATED COUNTY POLICY 106

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve updated County Policy 106 – Travel and Employee Incurred Expenses. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Language was added to the policy to reflect that traveling early or staying late to an authorized trip/event/training is permitted as long as there is no additional cost to the County and that the benefit of traveling early or leaving late is considered part of the employee's or elected official's official compensation. See instrument # 2026-2671

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

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution No. R26-26: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2026/2027 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 decrease the allocation of the County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) Expansion Funds received from Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). See instrument # 2026-2672

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

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.