

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

August 27, 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, and public member Arnold Tropf. 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 # 2025-2856

PROCLAMATION - RECOVERY MONTH

Mark Keele, Lindsey Nieskens, Dawn Dalton, Rene Kesler, Steven Wolfe, and Jeanne Moles were present for the signing of the Proclamation declaring September 2025 as Recovery Month. The proclamation was read by Mr. Keele:

Malheur County Recovery Proclamation

Mental health challenges, substance use, and harmful gambling behaviors affect individuals and families throughout our nation – including right here in Malheur County. These struggles touch people from all walks of life, but recovery is possible and happening every day. It begins with hope, grows with support, and thrives through connections. With the right tools, treatment, and encouragement, people can rebuild their lives and find purpose and joy again.

This September, Malheur County joins the national observance of Recovery Month to celebrate the resilience and healing journeys of those in recovery.

The need for awareness and action is urgent. Over 40 million Americans live with substance use disorders, and tragically, over 100,000 families lose loved ones to overdose annually. Here in Oregon, nearly 13 percent of residents' report life altering substance misuse use in the past month – well above the national average – and rates of anxiety and depression are approximately 3 percent higher than nationwide figures. Gambling disorder also affects thousands, with an estimated 88,000 adults and youth meeting clinical criteria and another 180,000 at risk. These numbers are not just statistics – they represent our neighbors and loved ones. This reality calls us to expand prevention, treatment, and support so no one faces these challenges alone.

Recovery Month reminds us all to break down stigma, recognize the signs of mental health and substance use struggles, and offer compassion and support to those who need it. By coming together as a community to share resources and celebrate every step forward, we strengthen the foundation of recovery. This journey is not one anyone takes alone – it is made possible by the dedication of healthcare providers, peer mentors, families, friends, and advocates whose care and commitment help make healing possible for so many.

Therefore, we, the County of Malheur, Oregon, hereby proclaim September 2025 as Recovery Month for Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors. We invite all citizens to observe this month with compassion, understanding, and action – celebrating those in recovery, supporting those still struggling, and building a community where healing is always within reach.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to proclaim the month of September 2025 as Recovery Month for Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Hands Around the Park will be held on September 11, 2025. Commissioner Jacobs thanked those present for their efforts in helping those in need with recovery.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Manager Kelsie Haueter met with the Court regarding the Planning Commission membership. The Planning Commission bylaws provide that membership is limited to two consecutive full terms (each term is four years); and a member may serve more than eight years if approved by the Court under special or extraordinary circumstances. Two current members have greatly exceeded eight years and a third member will complete his eighth year soon. Ms. Haueter inquired if the Court wanted to replace these three members at the end of the calendar year 2025; or if the Court would rather they continue to serve. The Planning Department does have a list of individuals interested in serving on the Planning Commission. Consensus of the Court was to replace the three members at the end of 2025; a member of the Court will attend the next Planning Commission meeting to assist Ms. Haueter in explaining the decision and thank the members for their dedication and service.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of August 20, 2025 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

LATCF PROJECTS

Commissioner Jacobs moved that the Bully Creek irrigation system project, purchase of two Vale City properties and expenses be paid with LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) funding. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (The Bully Creek irrigation system is also funded in part with Bureau of Reclamation funds.)

IGA #26018 AMENDMENT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Eleventh Amendment to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) 2024-2025 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Financing of Community Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery, & Prevention, and Problem Gambling Services, Agreement # PO-44300-00026018. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funding for Civil Commitment Services (MHS 24) have been awarded.

IGA # 185822 AMENDMENT

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve First Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2025-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services, Agreement #185822. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funding is awarded for Program Element 01-12 ACDP Infection Prevention Training and Program Element 43-01 Public Health Practice – Immunization Services.

IGA #180802 AMENDMENT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Amendment Number 01 to Intergovernmental Agreement Tort Liability Coverage as a Provider for Psychiatric Security Review Board, Agreement #180802/PO-44300-00022162. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement is extended to December 31, 2025. See instrument #2025-2877

ODOT AGREEMENT – OPERATING 5311

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Public Transit Division Oregon Department of Transportation Agreement No. 35814, Operating 5311. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funding is in the amount of \$573,598 for administration and operations to provide public transportation services in Malheur county. The agreement expires June 30, 2027. A subcontract will be drafted with Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services to provide the services.

IGA - DD PROGRAM

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve State of Oregon Intergovernmental Grant Agreement with Oregon Department of Human Services, Agreement Number PO-10000-00047116, eXPRS Number 157833. Commissioner Mendiola 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.

This agreement replaces the agreement signed by the Court on July 23, 2025. The State recalled the agreement signed in July and replaced it with this updated agreement.

AMENDMENT – LETTER OF INTENT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve First Amendment to Addendum to Binding Letter of Intent between Malheur County, Malheur County Development Corporation (MCDC), and JTH, LLC (Jaguar Transport Holdings Inc). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The parties agree to execute a purchase and sale agreement by September 15, 2025, providing for a closing date on a mutually agreed date no later than fifteen days following issuance by Union Pacific Rail Road of satisfaction of the conditions stated in paragraph 1 of the Addendum.

ASD (AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT) COORDINATOR VACANCY

The Court will score the applications and interviews will be scheduled.

PURCHASE DOCUMENTS – VALE CITY PROPERTIES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to authorize Judge Joyce to sign the purchase documents for the Vale City properties (old city hall and old fire hall properties). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judge Joyce asked for comments from the public. Arnold Tropf expressed concern with landowners not controlling Kochia weed and the fire danger the weed presents (within the city limits of Adrian). Mr. Tropf was encouraged to contact the City of Adrian with his concerns. Mr. Tropf also questioned who had maintenance responsibility for the road going from Succor Creek to Rockville and stated the road needs repaired from the park to Rockville.

PUBLIC HEARING – PLUMBING FIXTURES PERMIT FEE

Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of an adjustment to commercial, industrial, and dwellings other than 1 and 2 family plumbing permit fixture fees. Notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer and on the County website. Ms. Schaffeld explained that the current fee structure is a tiered structure (base fee plus a per fixture fee). This formula is not supported by the Building Codes Division. It is proposed to change the plumbing fees for fixtures to a fixed \$30 per fixture. The County Building Department contacted local plumbing contractors regarding the proposed change and no objections were received. No written or oral comments were received. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R25-27 In the Matter of: Resolution Changing Plumbing Permit Fee for Fixtures in Commercial, Industrial, and Dwellings Other Than 1 & 2 Family Construction to \$30 Per Fixture Within the Building Department. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The resolution will be forwarded to the State Building Codes Division for consideration and approval. See instrument # 2025-2857

Ms. Schaffeld noted that Pioneer Place received final signoff for the firewall project separating the assisted living and skilled nursing facilities.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

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