

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
September 10, 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 and Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski. 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 # 2025-2986

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Lindsay Grosvenor, Oregon Food Bank Regional Manager, met with the Court. Ms. Grosvenor explained that Hunger Action Month is a nationally recognized time when people across the country come together to take action to end hunger. Oregon Food Bank believes that food is a basic human right, and works to eliminate hunger and its root causes because no one should go hungry. The campaign for this year's theme is Hunger is a Policy Choice. The local branch of Oregon Food Bank serves Malheur and Harney counties and is currently serving more than 5,700 individuals a month through a network of partner agencies. Hundreds of families have recently reported their SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits as stolen and as a result are now seeking emergency food at local food pantries. Recent federal cuts have impacted Oregon Food Bank's food supply.

Western Treasure Valley Food System Partnership is co-hosting a community poverty simulation on September 24, 2025 as well as supporting the Four Rivers Healthy Community Conference on September 25, 2025. The following is a link to Oregon Food Bank's Hunger Action Month flyer: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lpo16iakxtj-YHDLm3964J2MtT8ZbIhn/view?usp=sharing>

Commissioner Jacobs read the proclamation:

Proclamation

Hunger Action Month – September 2025

WHEREAS, addressing the food insecurity needs of children, youth, adults, seniors, active military members, and veterans is fundamental to the future of Malheur County; and

WHEREAS, hunger and poverty are issues of vital concern in Malheur County, where 12% of residents struggle with hunger and do not know where their next meal will come from and 24% of children are living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the growing need for comprehensive, coordinated emergency food programs places a critical responsibility upon our community; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services is committed to combating hunger in every part of our community and providing the resources for our community members in need; and

WHEREAS, it is our responsibility as citizens of Malheur County to learn about hunger and to take action to reduce it; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services partners with 18 organizations across Malheur and Harney Counties as part of the Oregon Food Bank Network of Regional Food Banks, as well as leads the work of the Western Treasure Valley Food System Partnership working to educate the public about the importance of hunger-relief efforts and the need for more resources and coordination of services to strengthen the local food system and address the root causes of hunger; and

WHEREAS, there are, on average, 5,700 individuals served monthly for food assistance through Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon service's area partners; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services, along with its local partner agencies, volunteers, and supporters, is committed to educating citizens about the role of food banks, food pantries, and hunger-relief efforts in our community; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Food Bank Southeast Oregon Services distributes nearly 1 million pounds of food across Malheur and Harney Counties each year, and engages the community to help end hunger — one meal at a time — through donations, community outreach, and volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, the month of September is designated “Hunger Action Month” to bring attention to food insecurity in our communities and encourage action to combat it.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the County Court of Malheur County, Oregon do hereby proclaim the month of September 2025 as **HUNGER ACTION MONTH** and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of food insecurity and its impact on our nation, state, county, and community.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to proclaim the month of September as Hunger Action Month. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of September 3, 2025 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution R25-28: 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 Department of Energy hold-over funds and the remainder of Department of Agriculture grant funds in the Economic Development Fund that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted. These funds will be used for the purposes originally outlined in the grants. See instrument # 2025-2987

CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Accounts Payable Registers for June, July, and August 2025. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASE OF VALE CITY PROPERTIES

The deeds for purchase of the old Vale City Hall and old Fire Hall properties were executed and recorded on September 9, 2025. See instrument # 2025-2981 (old city hall) and #2025-2978 (old fire hall).

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.