

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
September 23, 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 were able to attend the meeting in person or electronically. Present in the meeting room were Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski; and Justin Boyles with Environment Oregon; and Tim Davis with Friends of the Owyhee. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, the Courthouse bulletin board, and emailed to the Argus Observer and all persons who requested notice. The agenda is recorded as instrument # 2026-3157

PUBLIC HEARING - SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution R26-30. Notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer. The public hearing and supplemental budget were necessary in order to allocate Oregon Health Authority (OHA) funds for mental health services in the Mental Health Fund that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these are pass through PSRB (Psychiatric Security Review Board) funds that Lifeways invoiced for June 2026 services. Additionally, the resolution allocates additional insurance refund funds in the Insurance Reserve fund that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds will be used for Worker’s Comp payments. No public comments were received. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution No. R26-30: 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. See instrument #2026-3158

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

CROSSING PERMIT

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Crossing Permit # 155-26 to Pacific Power for work on Owyhee Lake Road #846. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

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

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of September 16, 2026 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Vote: RJ/JM/DJ in favor. Approved

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Special Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2026 as written. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Mendiola abstained as he was not present on September 14, 2026.

Vote: RJ/DJ in favor. Approved.

NACO DUES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve payment of National Association of Counties (NACo) membership dues for 2027 in the amount of \$631.00 Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

IGA - VALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Malheur County, Oregon and Vale School District #84 for School Resource Deputy Services. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement expires June 30, 2027. See instrument # 2026-3159

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Joyce asked for comments from the public. Justin Boyles, Conservation Advocate with Environment Oregon introduced himself; explained that Environment Oregon is a statewide environmental nonprofit whose mission is to protect the natural world; and spoke about the importance of prioritizing funding solutions for State Parks. Mr. Boyles requested the Court members consider signing a letter to State leaders regarding protecting and prioritizing State Parks for the future.

Commissioner Jacobs noted that other pressing issues may have priority over State Parks, but he is supportive of the parks being taken care of and improved if possible.

On Saturday, September 26th, a Walk in the Park event will be held at Succor Creek State Natural Area.

SUBDIVISION PLAT

County Surveyor Derrick McKrola presented a subdivision plat for the Court's consideration. Commissioner Jacobs moved to accept Brownstown Subdivision Plat, in the City of Ontario. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-3155

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

COURT ADJOURNMENT

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

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