MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
October 21, 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 was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Ambulance Service District (ASD) Coordinator Keith Ishida. 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 # 2026-3429

TRIENNIAL REVIEW

Liz Hunt, Oregon Health Authority Local and Tribal Public Health Manager met with the Court and reviewed the 2026 Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) Triennial Review and Findings; also present was Health Department Director Rebecca Stricker. Ms. Hunt shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Court. The County Court is the Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) for Malheur County. The LPHA has many statutory responsibilities which include accepting reportable diseases, assuring immunizations are available, ensuring access to family planning services, licensing food, pool, tourist accommodations and recreational facilities, regulating public water systems (if delegated), Public Health (PH) modernization assessments and plans, and coordination with CCOs (Coordinated Care Organization) and Early Learning Hubs.

The LPHA governing body must appoint a qualified Local Public Health Administrator (currently Ms. Stricker), adopt ordinances/rules as needed and monitors for compliance of the statutory responsibilities for a LPHA. The Local Public Health Administrator can be a physician but that is not required. If the Administrator is not a physician, then the LPHA must contract or employ a Local Public Health Officer (currently Dr. Sarah Laiosa). The Local Public Health Administrator has many responsibilities.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Malheur County for Public Health Services; and an IGA for food, pool, lodging licensure inspections and enforcement through the Environmental Health Department. The Triennial Review was for the years of 2023-2026; reviewed 11 different areas; ensures compliance with state and federal regulations and requirements related to public health funding; and is an opportunity to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. Areas reviewed were: Administrative; Babies First!; Civil Rights: Communicable Disease; Fiscal; Food, Pool, Lodging Health & Safety; Health Officer; Immunizations; Public Health Emergency Preparedness; Tuberculosis; and Vital Records.

Areas of strength included staff experience and expertise. Ms. Stricker has extensive public health knowledge and experience; the Tuberculosis program staff are patient centered and compassionate in the care they provide for people who have TB; the County Registrar in the Vital Records program is very experienced and knowledgeable; the Health Department has strong partnerships with a variety

of community organizations and has a commitment to meeting the community needs; and the Communicable Disease program and the Immunizations program were exceptional.

Only two areas reviewed had any findings – this is exceptional. There were three findings in the Fiscal review; corrective actions have been completed and those findings are now resolved. There were 6 findings in the Food, Pool and Lodging Health & Safety review and corrective actions are due by December 31, 2026. Ms. Hunt noted that OHA is aware that the County has recently hired new staff in this program area and staff are on track to ensure compliance with the program requirements.

Ms. Stricker noted that the Family Planning program and WIC program are on different review cycles and were not included in this Triennial Review.

Ms. Hunt and Ms. Stricker answered questions from the Court members. See instrument # 2026-3434 for the PowerPoint presentation.

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #157-26 to Probst Electric, Inc. for work on Owyhee Lake Road #846; and Permit #158-26 to Probst Electric, Inc. for work on Succor Creek Road #687. 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 October 14, 2026 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

IGA # 188509 AMENDMENT – DD PROGRAM

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Amendment Number 01 to State of Oregon Intergovernmental Grant Agreement Number 188509/Grant Agreement Number PO-10000-00047116/eXPRS Number 15783. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Language throughout the agreement is amended. A copy will be returned for recording.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING PROPOSED TRANSFER OF IDAHO POWER TO OTEC

Commissioner Jacobs moved to submit public comment to the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) regarding the proposed transfer of Idaho Power's Oregon customers to Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Court request that attention be given to two issues that are fundamental to protecting customers

following a transfer: governance protections and equal treatment of similarly situated cooperative members. See instrument # 2026-3430

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Jacobs noted he recently attended the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) Rulemaking virtual public hearing on the Snake River Temperature TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Proposed Rule Amendments. The draft plans in the proposed rules include requirements for the County to ensure the plans are followed and may require the County to adopt new ordinances.

Ms. DuBois left the meeting.

TREASURE VALLEY PARAMEDICS (TVP)

Treasure Valley Paramedics (TVP) submitted a proposal in response to the County's Request for Proposal for Ambulance Services for the Ontario and Nyssa/Adrian Ambulance Service Areas. TVP Vice-President Heather Land gave an oral presentation in response to the Request for Proposal. Also present were TVP staff Tony Bland, Paramedic Chief of Operations; Jelisa Pantoja, Assistant Chief of Operations and Billing Manager; and TVP Attorney Shawn Logan. Ms. Land explained that Mr. Logan had a presentation prepared for the Court, however, Ms. Land is passionate about TVP and at the last minute has chosen to give her own presentation. Treasure Valley Paramedics was started in 1999 with three men and an ambulance. For 27 years, TVP has served Malheur County and its residents and grown with and for Malheur County. TVP now currently has 7 ambulances, two stations, 37 employees, and one paramedic chase car. Ms. Land has been with TVP for 11 years and has had the pleasure of growing with the providers, EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) students, citizens of Malheur County and Malheur County itself. Over the last ten years, the TVP Foundation has put $389,000 back into EMS (Emergency Medical Services) locally. TVP has donated 6 ambulances to other areas and contributed financially to other local fundraisers and efforts. TVP works with the colleges and middle/high schools to inspire and train the next generation of EMS providers. TVP helped to establish a permanent program at TVCC (Treasure Valley Community College) through Chemeketa and implemented a $25,000 scholarship program. TVP employees are local; they own homes and businesses locally, have grown up in the area and know the area. The employees know the rural challenges, the geographical challenges, and what resources are available. TVP has had zero lawsuits and very few public complaints. EMS nationwide faces some challenges and TVP has had those same challenges; when those challenges arise TVP has been transparent with the ASD board and County. Out of an abundance of caution TVP has voiced those concerns when they have risen and been able to provide a service about what it expected. TVP knows what Malheur County can support and what Malheur County deserves, and continues to strive to make sure that everybody knows what they're getting when TVP arrives.

Ms. Land explained that the RFP (Request for Proposal) process has been interesting. There have been lots of questions from employees and the public assuming that because Malheur County issued the RFP, TVP must have failed or made Malheur County unhappy. Ms. Land has assured those with questions that this process is the ASD Board and County doing their due diligence to make sure that

all options are on the table and that the residents are getting a fair look at what's available, and that TVP has continued to exceed and has not failed in the last 27 years and looks forward to continuing to provide the service for the next three years.

Following the oral presentation Executive Session was held in accordance with ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 192.660(2)(a) and ORS 192.660(2)(f) with Judge Joyce presiding and Commissioners Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola present. Also present were: ASD Coordinator Keith Ishida, County Counsel Stephanie Williams, and TVP representatives Heather Land, Tony Bland and Jelisa Pantoja. No decisions were made during or following the session.

PIONEER AMBULANCE

Pioneer Ambulance submitted a proposal in response to the County's Request for Proposal for Ambulance Services for the Ontario and Nyssa/Adrian Ambulance Service Areas. Metro West Ambulance Owner/President JD Fuiten gave an oral presentation and PowerPoint presentation in response to the Request for Proposal. Also assisting with the presentation was Erin Miller, Metro West Chief Business Development Officer and Paramedic Larry Hornaday. A video highlighting Pioneer Ambulance and the Oregon communities it serves was shared. Mr. Fuiten explained that Pioneer Ambulance proposes to bring 4 ambulances and 24/7/365-day paramedic coverage. One ambulance would be stationed in the Nyssa area and three in Ontario. Pioneer Ambulance is an experienced rural EMS provider. Metro West is a regional Oregon EMS organization of 12 companies with local management and corporate oversight. An ambulance membership program is also available. Pioneer Ambulance offers advanced lifesaving clinical equipment; some of this equipment is currently available locally and some is not. Pioneer Ambulance proposes to hire from the local workforce; no qualified employee would be asked to take a pay cut. To ensure full staffing Pioneer can access qualified staff from its sister companies. Pioneer Ambulance offers an extensive employee benefits package including tuition assistance and training opportunities. Pioneer Ambulance brings a proven track record of success, a time-tested billing and collections process, a professional approach, advanced technology, around the clock paramedic coverage and a commitment to community investment. Pioneer Ambulance is committed to meeting and exceeding expectations. See instrument # 2026-3435 for the complete PowerPoint presentation.

Following the oral presentation Executive Session was held in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(a) and ORS 192.660(2)(f) with Judge Joyce presiding and Commissioners Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola present. Also present were: ASD Coordinator Keith Ishida, County Counsel Stephanie Williams, and Pioneer Ambulance representatives JD Fuiten, Erin Miller and Larry Hornaday. No decisions were made during or following the session.

ASCENT MEDICAL TRANSPORT

Ascent Medical Transport submitted a proposal in response to the County's Request for Proposal for Ambulance Services for the Ontario and Nyssa/Adrian Ambulance Service Areas. Ascent Medical Transport Chief Executive Officer Matt Kaiserman gave an oral presentation and PowerPoint presentation in response to the Request for Proposal. Also assisting with the presentation was Ascent Medical Transport Chief Clinical Officer Brian Hite. Mr. Kaiserman gave a brief background on

himself and Mr. Hite as well as Dr. Rourke Yeakley, Ascent's Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director (not present). Ascent's mission is to raise the bar in medical transport – clinically, operationally, and culturally and build a respected EMS operation in the Mountain West. Ascent Medical Transport started in 2024, is locally owned and operated, and offers 24/7/365-day access to EMS services across Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support, and Critical Care/Specialty Care coverage. Ascent runs a multi-region and national wildland fire and other standby support. Ascent aims to deliver a robust clinical service across a wide geography through a partnership approach and is looking to expand service offerings in a variety of areas. Ascent currently has a base in Boise and Nampa; has a fleet of six ambulances with continued expansion anticipated. Ascent requires relentless effort and a spectacular attitude from its staff; staff are ambassadors of the organization. Ascent has robust medical protocols, policies and procedures; offers educational programs; and has a formalized structure around quality assurance, safety and compliance. Ascent uses the Just Culture process. Ascent's operating philosophy aims to have a flat organizational structure with local leadership that is as invested in the communities as Ascent is. Ascent wants to drive innovation and be a technology enabled organization with an aim to lower non-clinical overhead; savings realized from this approach is reinvested in staff. Ascent strives for a holistic approach to health and patient care with community partnerships. See instrument # 2026-3436 for the complete PowerPoint presentation.

Following the oral presentation Executive Session was held in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(a) and ORS 192.660(2)(f) with Judge Joyce presiding and Commissioners Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola present. Also present were: ASD Coordinator Keith Ishida, County Counsel Stephanie Williams, and Ascent Medical Transport representatives Matt Kaiserman and Brian Hite. No decisions were made during or following the session.

ROAD ACCEPTANCE

County Surveyor Derrick McKrola met with the Court and presented a road dedication on a partition plat for their consideration. Commissioner Jacobs moved to accept road dedication of a portion of Arcadia Boulevard on Nicholas Petersen's Partition Plat #26-16. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2026-3431

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.