

## **MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**

### **December 3, 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 Sheriff Travis Johnson. 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 # 2025-3864

#### **ROMANS' PRECISION IRRIGATION – IDAHO POWER PROGRAM**

Kurt Romans with Romans' Precision Irrigation (RPI) met with the Court and provided information on a conservation and water quality opportunity through Idaho Power. Through Idaho Power's renewal process it was discovered that the phosphorus loads were raised in Brownlee Reservoir. The major tributaries that feed into Brownlee are out of Malheur county and a little bit of Idaho. Idaho Power created a grant program to assist landowners with converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation to get rid of flood ground. Part of the approval stipulation was that Idaho Power's funding must be matched by other funding sources. NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) does some grants each year for flood to sprinkler irrigation conversion. The Freshwater Trust (TFT) is working with irrigation dealers to push this opportunity out. RPI is recruiting, providing quotes, assisting with applying for the grant, and installing the irrigation system. Approximately 50 pivots were installed this year. NRCS has modeled fields for phosphorus loads by slope, by crop rotation, and also the amount of drains that are hit before reaching the Snake River. This year, RPI has signed up over 150 pivots for installation next fall (dependent on available grant funding).

#### **UPDATED 2025-2027 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PLAN**

Community Corrections Lieutenant Jim St. Michell met with the Court and presented the updated 2025-2027 Community Corrections Biennial Plan. The updated plan includes no supervision for unfunded misdemeanor cases. (Community Corrections will continue to supervise the approximate 40 individuals who are currently on this supervision until their cases expire or they are placed on Bench Probation.) The changes to the plan are on page 4, Probation and Parole Supervision/Services/Sanctioning. Work crew for Bench Probation cases and day reporting for pre-trial cases will continue. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve the updated 2025-2027 Community Corrections Biennial Plan. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-3865 (Note: This updated plan replaces the plan approved by the Court on October 8, 2025. (instrument #2025-3861))

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL – ECOSTRAT INC**

Mr. Rembowski presented a proposal prepared by Ecostrat Inc. for a BDO (Bioeconomy Development Opportunity) Zone designation study. The County received a USDA (United States

Department of Agriculture) Rural Business Development Grant to study the biofuel production of cattle manure in the region. The County will pay Ecostrat and submit for reimbursement through the USDA grant. (The County did not solicit bids as Ecostrat is a sole source provider.) Commissioner Mendiola moved to accept the Ecostrat proposal. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A copy will be returned for recording. See instrument #2025-3889

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of November 19, 2025 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **PERS RETIREE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve the following agreements: Maintenance Supervisor – employment of PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) retiree Employment Agreement with Don Dalton; Accounting Specialist/Malheur County Road Department – employment of PERS retiree Employment Agreement with Shelly Dennis; Lieutenant Malheur County Sheriff's Office – employment of PERS retiree Employment Agreement with Richard Harriman; Employment of PERS retiree Employment Agreement with David Kesey; Child Support Specialist/Malheur County District Attorney's Office – employment of PERS retiree Employment Agreement with Teresa (Teri) Miller; Employment of PERS retiree Employment Agreement with Danny Perkins; and Employment of PERS retiree Employment Agreement with Rachel Reyna. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-3872 (Dalton); #2025-3871 (Dennis); 2025-3869 (Harriman); 2025-3868 (Kesey); 2025-3870 (Miller); 2025-3867 (Perkins); 2025-3866 (Reyna)

Commissioner Mendiola noted he was concerned with the PERS retiree employment agreements and inquired as to the process to hire persons to replace the retirees to include a mentorship process. Ms. DuBois explained that an individual can be contracted with to help with the transition/training of a new hire as needed and requested by the department head/elected official (two persons will not be paid for full-time to do the same job). The County's hiring process must be followed.

### **AGREEMENT - FAIR BOARD/TVCC**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Agreement between Malheur County Fair Board and Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This is a lease agreement for the TVCC rodeo program. The term of the lease is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. See instrument # 2025-3873

### **COURTHOUSE PLANNING PROJECT**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve submittal of the Executive Summary to AOC (Association of Oregon Counties) for the Malheur County Courthouse Planning Proposal, nunc pro tunc to December 1, 2025. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Malheur County is requesting state planning funds for the development of a new courthouse. See instrument # 2025-3874

### **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R25-32: 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 additional State and EOCCO (Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization) funds in the Health Department budget that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds are to be used for modernization and to build a network of Health-Related Social Needs service providers to support EOCCO members; and to allocate evidence forfeiture funds in the Sheriff budget that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds will go to General Contingency. See instrument # 2025-3875

### **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.