

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**January 8, 2025**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce with Commissioner Jacobs and Commissioner 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: Economic and Community Development Director Taylor Rembowski and Building Official Adele Schaffeld. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, Courthouse bulletin board, and emailed to the Argus Observer, Malheur Enterprise and those persons who have requested notice. The meeting was audio recorded. The agenda is recorded as instrument # 2025-0051.

**PERS RETIREES CONTRACT EMPLOYEES**

Lieutenant Rich Harriman, Undersheriff Dave Kesey, Shelly Dennis, Teri Miller, Dan Perkins, and Lieutenant Rachel Reyna (present electronically) met with the Court regarding the County's compensation policy for PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) retirees. (County Policy 311 - Retirement/Employment of PERS Retirees). It was requested the Court reconsider the compensation policy to include holiday pay, vacation paid leave at the same rate as non-retired employees with the same time in service, and continuation through the pay scales until the last step is reached. Currently, PERS retiree contract employees do not receive holiday pay; receive 10 paid vacation days per calendar year; and are re-hired at the same salary as held prior to retirement with cost of living adjustments granted pursuant to the County's salary schedule. Additionally, paid sick leave accrues at the rate of 1 hour per 30 hours worked and the PERS retirees contract employees do not receive paid personal days. Those present discussed holiday pay and vacation paid time off with the Court. It was noted that these employees are long-term employees of the County that have chosen to continue working for the County after retirement; they are experienced and dedicated employees and they have not had a break in service. Commissioner Jacobs thanked the PERS retirees for the contribution to the County and the community; and explained the Court needs to consider the financial impact of the request as well as the impacts if the PERS retirees did not contract back with the County and rather their positions were filled by others. Lt. Harriman stressed the PERS retirees are not asking for more; they are asking for the same compensation package as the non-retired County employees receive. The Court took the request under advisement. See instrument # 2025-0058 for the written correspondence from the retirees to the Court.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Building Official Adele Schaffeld met with the Court. The Building Department has moved into its new office space at the Goodfellow building in Ontario. Signage identifying the office has been ordered; and notice of the new location was placed in the Argus Observer newspaper. There are still some items to address in the building remodel project. The gate needs to be changed from manual to automatic. An owner walk through needs to be completed for the construction work. The Court requested Ms. Schaffeld review the plans and compile a list of items that differ from the approved plans.

Ms. Schaffeld also presented an amendment to the IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) with Building Codes Division (BCD); the amendment adds a provision for compensation to the County from BCD for the implementation of electronic plan review. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Amendment #1 to Intergovernmental Agreement #PO-44000-00027507. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-0056

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Travis Johnson met with the Court regarding transfer of the deceased to the State Medical Examiner office for autopsies (the office is located in Clackamas). A transport company currently provides the transport services at a cost of approximately \$1700 per transport. Oregon will not allow the autopsies to be conducted outside of Oregon. TVP (Treasure Valley Paramedics) has an ambulance it is decommissioning and has offered it to the Sheriff's Office for \$17,000; the \$17,000 will be deducted from the outstanding dispatch fees owed by TVP for the 2023/24 Fiscal Year. Commissioner Mendiola moved to acquire the ambulance from TVP and deduct \$17,000 from the outstanding dispatch fees owed by TVP. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously,

### **CROSSING PERMITS**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #88-24 to Sterling Johnston for work on Napton Road #1052; Crossing Permit #89-24 to Wilson Construction Company for work on SW Park Blvd. #856; and Crossing Permit #01-25 to Michels Pacific Energy for work on Clark Blvd. #857. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of December 18, 2024 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed. (Judge Joyce was absent on December 18, 2024.)

### **AMENDMENT - IGA #180022**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Thirteenth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2023-2025 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Financing of Public Health Services, Agreement #180022. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Financial Assistance Award is amended. A copy will be returned for recording.

### **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRO TEMPORE**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Order GO-01-25 Appointing Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore for Malheur County Justice Court during the 2025 Calendar Year. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-0052

### **INVESTING FUNDS**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Order GO-02-25: In the Matter of Investing Any Sinking Fund, Bond Fund or Surplus Funds. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-0053

### **AUTHORIZATION OF REFUNDS**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Resolution R25-01: In the Matter of Authorization of Refunds by Tax Collector. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-0054

### **BUDGET OFFICER**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to appoint Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois as Budget Officer for FY 2025-26. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **CHECK REGISTER**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve the Accounts Payable Register for September 2024, October 2024, November 2024, and December 2024. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **LCDC MEETING**

Commissioner Jacobs noted LCDC (Land Conservation and Development Commission) is holding a public hearing on January 23, 2025 to consider changes to the Greater Sage-Grouse habitat maps.

### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.