

## **MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**

**January 11, 2017**

County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and County Counsel Stephanie Williams.

Also present was John Braese of the Malheur Enterprise.

### **SAFETY COMMITTEE - EMERGENCY CLOSURES**

Safety Committee representatives Frank Goble and Josh Kreger met with the Court concerning recent inclement weather and the County policy for closures. Assessor Dave Ingram was also present for the session telephonically. The Safety Committee wanted clarification on the process for closing County buildings during an emergency. Mr. Goble also explained that there are several different ways that employees can be notified of emergencies including: bulk staff email, County website, and AlertSense. Mr. Ingram commented that ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation), the Road Department and the Sheriff's Office should be contacted regarding road conditions and advising the County Court to determine inclement weather closures; and asked what the notification process was for staff. Mr. Goble also said the Safety Committee was concerned about the public's safety. Commissioner Wilson expressed concerns about what is considered "inclement weather" and the possible expectations of County closures.

Ms. Williams drafted a policy addressing the concerns and questions, of the Safety Committee and Mr. Ingram, yesterday and it is on today's Court agenda for their consideration. The policy states that the philosophy of Malheur County is that offices and departments will be open except under extreme adverse conditions. Individual employees need to make whatever decisions are necessary for their own safety. The County Judge is the County closure authority due to inclement weather and will work closely with County Commissioners, Road Supervisor and Sheriff's Office/Emergency Services. When County offices and departments are open during inclement weather and the County Judge has not issued an announcement of closure, County employees will be expected to make reasonable efforts to get to work. Employees unable to arrive for work on any such day shall notify their supervisor and report his/her absence as soon as reasonably possible; and shall take vacation leave, personal leave or comp. time, if the leave is available; unpaid leave may be taken only if vacation, comp. time and personal leave is not available.

Commissioner Hodge moved to adopt Policy 405 - Inclement Weather and Closure Policy. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2017-0108](#)

County staff who have not previously signed up for AlertSense are encouraged to do so.

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Court Minutes of January 4, 2017. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed. (Judge Joyce was not present on January 4, 2017)

### **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution R17-03: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS (Oregon Revised Statute) 294.471. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The purpose of the supplemental budget is to allocate bid security funds for the Fire Alarm project. See instrument #[2017-0111](#)

### **CROSSING PERMITS**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Crossing Permit #01-17 to Idaho Power to relocate poles on the east side of Echo Road #770; and Permit #02-17 to Idaho Power to replace a capacitor bank on Holly Road #1022. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

### **BUDGET OFFICER**

Commissioner Wilson moved to appoint County Administrator Lorinda DuBois as Budget Officer for 2017. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACT - ALARMCO**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Personal Service Contract with Alarmco Inc for the courthouse fire alarm system project. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2017-0110](#)

### **GLYPHOSATE TOLERANT CREEPING BENTGRASS (GTCB)**

Commissioner Wilson noted that he recently spoke with Paulette Pyle and she and a representative of Scotts Co. will be in the area January 18th and may wish to meet with Court members concerning GTCB. Persons of several different entities, including Farm Bureau, County Weed Board, and OSU (Oregon State University) Extension have been meeting and working on concerns regarding GTCB. Scotts Co. has petitioned to deregulate the grass.

### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Court was adjourned.