

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
February 1, 2023

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse with Commissioner Ron Jacobs and Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois. Treasure Valley Paramedic's attorney Shawn Logan was present for a short period of time. Members of the media, public, and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. 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 # 2023-0302

ALTRUISTIC RECOVERY

Annette Serrano Volk, Director of Altruistic Recovery, met with the Court and gave a brief overview of services offered by Altruistic Recovery. Altruistic Recovery is a substance use and mental health outpatient treatment facility. Altruistic Recovery is located in Ontario and has been there for almost two years, however it took 18 months to receive certification from the State. Services offered include outpatient treatment services, domestic violence classes, anger management classes, DUI (Driving Under the Influence) classes, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services. Referrals to Altruistic Recovery come from Department of Human Services, probation, St. Alphonsus Medical Center, Valley Family Health Care, Circuit Court, and others. Altruistic recognizes the need for a local detox facility as well as youth respite beds. Commissioner Jacobs asked Ms. Volk about Measure 110 funding. Ms. Volk explained Altruistic submitted a grant application in December 2021; awards were made Spring of 2022 and Altruistic was not award any Measure 110 grant funding. (Three local entities received funding in Malheur county - Lifeways, EOCIL (Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living), and Origins Faith Community.)

CROSSING PERMIT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #03-23 to Idaho Power Company for work on Clark Boulevard #857. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of January 25, 2023 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT - POVERTY TO PROSPERITY (P2P)

Commissioner Mendiola moved to sign a letter of support for Poverty to Prosperity's effort to launch high school apprenticeship programs in the plumbing and electrical fields; the letter request that Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) help overcome barriers to starting a high school apprenticeship program in Oregon. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2023-0303

UPDATES TO COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED LIST

Weed Inspector Amanda Zander met with the Court. Ms. Zander reviewed proposed changes to the County noxious weed list. The entire County is a weed control district, excluding the boundaries of the incorporated cities. Ms. Zander, as the County Weed Inspector recommends the addition of numerous plants to the noxious weed list; the recommendation is made based upon Oregon Department of Agriculture's state weed list, as well as bordering counties, listing all weeds of concern that have the potential to grow in the County. It is proposed to add 33 plants to the "A" list and 36 to the "B" list. Some noxious weeds are found within the boundaries of the incorporated cities and Ms. Zander will work to communicate her concerns surrounding these plants to the cities. Commissioner Jacobs inquired if Ms. Zander utilizes biological control; Ms. Zander has not, but the former Weed Inspector did a lot of biological control so it is already existent in the places that are needed. Ms. Zander has requested biological control for specific plants but so far, those requested organisms have not been available. Consensus of the Court was to proceed with the proposed changes to the noxious weed list.

County Counsel Stephanie Williams joined the meeting.

AGENDA CHANGE

Ms. Williams noted that Treasure Valley Paramedics, through their attorney Shawn Logan, requested the agenda item to consider a variance to Medic 3 be removed from the agenda.

UPDATED PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY

Ms. Williams explained the updated County public records policy was drafted by the attorney the County has hired due to the lawsuit filed by the Malheur Enterprise against the County, Malheur County Development Corporation, and Greg Smith. The proposed policy was disseminated to department heads/elected officials for review and requested changes were made. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution No. R23-04: Resolution Adopting Public Records Policy for Malheur County. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2023-0304

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.