

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**February 5, 2025**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. 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 was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski. 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 # 2025-0297

**GOODFELLOW GATE PROJECT; DISPATCH CENTER**

Maintenance Supervisor Don Dalton provided information on the Goodfellow building gate project. Quotes will be obtained for a remote opener system for the west main gate; and removal of the gate from the south side of the building and installation of fencing to match the current fence with a four-foot walk-in gate. The Court reviewed the proposal prepared by Mr. Dalton; and agreed that the project could be budgeted for in the next fiscal year (2025/2026). See instrument # 2025-0304 for the written proposal for the gate project.

Sheriff Travis Johnson joined the meeting. The boilers that sit above the dispatch center at the Sheriff's Office were discussed. If a boiler fails it will cause catastrophic damage to the dispatch center. Leaks have happened several times in the past and damaged dispatch. Mr. Dalton inquired if it would be possible to connect to the City's hydronic hot water line and eliminate the boilers. Sheriff Johnson noted the City is working on a project to relocate the line. An estimate to move the boilers was obtained approximately two years ago and it was about \$700,000. If the dispatch center was relocated the boilers would not be as much of a concern; a water leak to an office space is much less catastrophic than damage to the PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) Center. IS (Information Services) Director Joshua Kreger noted that a boiler failure would also damage the switches, video, and phone lines for the Sheriff's Office/Jail.

**RESOLUTION - USDA GRANT**

Mr. Rembowski presented a resolution authorizing Malheur County to reapply for a USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Rural Business Development Grant to hire a consultant to assist the County to gather data and build a marketing plan, if it is determined that there is enough feed stock in the County for biofuels and obtain a Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone rating. The resolution is a requirement of the grant application. Mr. Rembowski submitted the same grant application last year, however, due to a technical issue USDA did not know they had the grant application and did not process it. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution No. R25-04 - In the Matter of: Resolution to Obtain for and on Behalf of County of Malheur a Grant through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-0295

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of January 29, 2025 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR VACANCY**

The Court will score the Environmental Health Director applications received. Interviews will be scheduled for a future Court meeting; Melissa Ney will be asked to serve on the interview panel with the Court members.

### **QUITCLAIM DEED - VALDEZ**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Quitclaim Deed to Rosa Zambrano Valdez for Ref. #634. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Valdez purchased the property at the 2022 Land Sale and has paid off the Contract to Sell. See instrument # 2025-0299

### **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - LAWRENCE**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Temporary Employment Agreement to Perform Duties of a Dispatcher - Malheur County Sheriff's Office with Brittany Lawrence. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-0298

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session was called in accordance with ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with designee on real property transaction negotiations with Judge Joyce presiding and Commissioner Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola present. Also present were County Counsel Stephanie Williams, Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, and Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski. Present electronically were Leslie Thompson with the Argus Observer and Les Zaitz with the Malheur Enterprise. No decisions were made during the session.

### **CITY OF VALE PROPERTY**

By consensus, the Court authorized Mr. Rembowski to negotiate with the City of Vale for purchase of the old city hall property and the old fire hall property at a starting purchase price of \$250,000.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.