

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**February 19, 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. 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 # 2025-0423

**OWYHEE WATERSHED COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT**

Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) Coordinator Nicole Sullivan and Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area (JV CWMA) Coordinator Eric Morrison met with the Court electronically and provided an annual update and answered questions from the Court members. Owyhee Watershed Council currently has 19 OWEB (Owyhee Watershed Enhancement Board) grants secured totaling \$1,256,052: (1) Stakeholder Engagement Grant; (14) Restoration Grants; and (4) Technical Assistance Grants. One large grant was implemented last year that converted 88 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation in the Arock area. Two small grant projects were implemented that converted 75 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation in the Rock Springs and Big Bend areas. OWC receives approximately \$100,000 each biennium for the Owyhee Small Grants Program; some changes to the program are anticipated this next biennium that will bolster the program and hopefully increase funding. Planning for the 2025 5th Grade Field day is underway. Currently, approximately 35 organizations and 75 individuals are participating in the Malheur Rangeland Partnership; the next meeting is scheduled for April 8th. In October, OWC received a Partnership Award from the Oregon State Land Board for its continued partnership work across Oregon State Rangelands. OWC has a USFWS (United States Fish & Wildlife Service) grant for wildfire recovery seeding on the Cow Valley and Durkee fires and USFWS funding in Idaho for juniper cutting work which are currently on hold due to the federal grants pause executive order.

The Jordan Valley CWMA assisted in treating 3371.4 acres in conjunction with private landowners and NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service). 2,435 acres were treated for medusahead rye in conjunction with a NRCS grant and a Pheasants Forever Grant on private land; and the landowner paid for the addition of herbicide for Scotch thistle in the treatment area. 435 acres in the Arock and Danner areas were treated for Scotch thistle; and 230 acres in the Quinn area were treated for perennial pepper weed. The Jordan Valley Whitetop Give-A-Way distributed 230 gallons of chemical to 18 individuals; and 54 individuals attended the 2025 Winter Weed Seminar.

See instrument # 2025-0424 for the written report.

**COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of February 12, 2025 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution R25-06: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2024/2025 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 Oregon Department of Agriculture grant funds that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted; these funds are to be used to do outreach and education regarding invasive species Quagga, Zebra and Golden Mussels in Malheur County. See instrument # 2025-0425

### **HEARING - PETITION TO ANNEX PROPERTY INTO ONTARIO RURAL FIRE DISTRICT**

Present for the public hearing to consider a petition to annex property into the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District were Petitioner Ryan Svaty and Megan Svaty. Ryan Svaty filed a petition to annex approximately 152 acres into the boundaries of the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District; the Fire District is in support of the annexation request. Notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer and mailed to the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District and Petitioner Ryan Svaty. Judge Joyce opened the hearing. Mr. Svaty explained that a fire occurred on the property last year and that was when he became aware that it was not in the boundaries of the Fire District. The property currently has some outbuildings on it and there are two (2) Statements for Deferred Replacement Dwelling recorded on the property. Annexing into the Fire District will not affect building of the deferred replacement dwellings. No public comments were received. The hearing was closed. Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve the annexation request and sign Order No. GO-03-25: In the Matter of the Petition of: Ryan Svaty to Annex Certain Property (Map 18S4614, tax lot 200) Into the Ontario Rural Fire Protection District #7-302. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-0426

### **STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUND (STIF) PLAN - ADJUSTED BUDGET**

Malheur Council on Aging & Community Services (MCOA&CS) Transportation Manager Brittany White met with the Court electronically and explained that the proposed Biennium 2025-2027 STIF (Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund) Plan and budget needed adjusted due to utilizing incorrect allocation amounts and not including the recommended 120% increase provided by the Public Transportation Division. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve the Amended STIF Biennium 2025-2027 Executive Summary of Projects and budget and submit it to ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation). Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-0427

### **IRONHEAD REMODEL PROJECT - CHANGE ORDER**

Maintenance Supervisor Don Dalton and Sheriff Travis Johnson met with the Court and reviewed proposed design changes to the Ironhead building remodel project. It is proposed to close three windows off and construct a solid wall in the meeting room/classroom (west side). The wall could then be utilized for a smart board, screen, tv, etc. A full countertop (with cabinets and sink) was

also proposed. After discussion, Commissioner Mendiola moved to authorize the change order. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judge Joyce asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

**COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.