

## MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2016

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

Also present was Larry Meyer of the Argus Observer.

### **UPDATES ON VARIOUS HUNTING ACTIVITIES**

Dave Stiefvater, Pheasants Forever Habitat Coordinator, and Phil Milburn, ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) Biologist, met with the Court and provided updates on several hunting related matters. Mr. Stiefvater provided an Ontario Recreational Access Report from Malheur County Chapter of Pheasants Forever as follows: *Ontario Recreational Access was opened to the public on September 1, 2008. This access was funded by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife - Access & Habitat (A&H) Grant and the Malheur County Chapter of Pheasants Forever (PF). The \$5,100 A&H grant was paid to the City of Ontario annually. In 2015, the City of Ontario waived the fee for access. ODFW, PF, and the City have signed an agreement for continuing the use of the property. This project is the first of its kind in Oregon. The Malheur County Chapter of Pheasants Forever has a unique partnership with the City of Ontario, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) - Natural Resource Department. The property is located on the City of Ontario Waste Water Treatment Property, northwest of Ontario. There are two access locations on the property. There are informational kiosks at each of the access locations. The kiosks have information on: safety, access permits, drop boxes (for permits), walk in access only signs, property boundaries, and safety zones. We request all users to fill out Part A of the Access Permit and place in the drop box before entering property. Once users have returned from hunting, fishing, hiking, etc., then Part B of Access Permit is dropped off also. PF and TVCC Natural Resource students take this information and download data into a Harvest Report. Harvest Report Data includes: number of visitors, number out of state visitors, and birds harvested. Since opening the property to the public, there have been 3,470 visitors and average 433 per year. Out of State hunters or visitors across Oregon are averaging 17% to 20%. Hunters have come as far away as Alaska, Mississippi, Utah, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. The 2015-2016 Harvest Report showed 282 visitors and harvested 55 quail, 7 dove, 33 pheasants, 127 ducks, and 10 geese. The project has had an excellent response from the public.*

An additional approximately 600 hundred acres on Skyline Farms may open up for access for hunting this fall. There is a concern about the retention rate of youth as future hunters; there is a need for more places to access for youth to hunt.

Mr. Milburn explained that the Access and Habitat program recently received approximately \$500,000 from the federal grant program Open Fields. The program is designed to promote hunting and access to private lands; the Open Fields monies will allow for new landowners to join the program. The Access and Habitat program will pay landowners up to \$3.00 per

acre. Mr. Milburn also explained that the recreational immunity law does apply to the Access and Habitat properties.

The Rogers Wildlife Management Area south of Nyssa (80 acres) had 108 hunters during Pheasant season.

ODFW has two websites that are great resources: Oregonhuntingmap.com is based on Google Maps and allows for you to scout areas for habitat and terrain. Oregonshootingmap.com can help you find a shooting range.

Approximately 70% of the Bighorn Sheep herd in the Owyhee Management Unit has been lost to respiratory disease. It was noted that it is illegal to possess Bighorn Sheep horns and if a person finds horns on the ground they should be left as is.

Mr. Stiefvater and Mr. Milburn visited with the Court about a wide-range of hunting related topics and answered various questions.

### **PUBLIC HEARING - LANDFILL RATES**

Present for the public hearing to consider a proposed rate increase for Lytle Boulevard Landfill was Environmental Health Specialist Eric Evans. Notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer and Malheur Enterprise. Judge Joyce opened the hearing. No public comments were received. Judge Joyce closed the hearing. Commissioner Wilson moved to implement the new landfill fees as proposed effective July 1, 2016. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # [2016-0862](#)

### **SHUNN ROAD**

The Court briefly discussed correspondence they had received from landowners on Shunn Road. Judge Joyce stated it was a County road and the Court concurred that Shunn Road should be graded by the Road Department.

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Brian Wolfe met with the Court; also present was Lt. Rob Hunsucker. Sheriff Wolfe told the Court his office is hosting a letter writing night opposing the National Monument in the Owyhee Canyonlands proposal on March 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Four Rivers Cultural Center, and March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Lions' Den in Jordan Valley.

Sheriff Wolfe visited with the Court about a lateral transfer proposal for deputies. Sheriff Wolfe explained that it is increasingly difficult to hire in law enforcement, both in Oregon and nationwide. Many Oregon law enforcement agencies are now offering signing bonuses for new hires and starting laterals out at higher steps. Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) estimate the cost of training a new deputy to be between \$100,000 and \$150,000. A new deputy is required to attend the Basic Academy for 16 weeks. Field training with an agency Coach usually takes 3 to 5 months. Overall, it usually takes a new deputy about a year and a half to become completely proficient. However, a lateral transfer is usually trained for about two weeks on local procedures and then they are on their own; lateral transfers have experience and proven track records.

Sheriff Wolfe asked the Court to consider the following proposal:

3-5 Years Law Enforcement Experience begin at Step 4 \$4010.00  
5-10 Years Law Enforcement Experience begin at Step 5 \$4211.00  
10+ Years Law Enforcement Experience begin at Step 6 \$4421.00

Sheriff Wolfe also explained that there is an Oregon Revised Statute that mandates if an agency hires law enforcement that is currently employed at an Oregon agency for less than two years then the hiring agency must pay the original agency for that persons training costs for that first two years. Persons from out-of-state law enforcement agencies would be required to attend the DPSST academy for two weeks.

**MCOA&CS (Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services)**

MCOA&CS Executive Director Loni Debban and Agency Coordinator April MacKenzie met with the Court. Ms. Debban presented an ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) Discretionary Bus Application Package grant application for the replacement of three vehicles. The total project cost is \$195,000; the match requirement would come from MCOA&CS contract income. Ms. Debban also requested that the County release their liens on the three vehicles to be replaced. After discussion, Commissioner Hodge moved to approve the County release their lien on the 2005 Chevy Venture Van (Vin#1GBDV13E15D148825); 2005 Chevy Venture Van (Vin #1GBDV13E65D150263); and the 2005 Chevy Uplander (Vin#1GBDV13L05D300883). Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Debban also explained that the City of Ontario bus route has been altered; it now has scheduled stops and no longer will do flag-down stops.

**RELIEF NURSERY PROCLAMATION - CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery (TVCRN) Executive Director Kathie Collins and Board Member Erin Landis met with the Court. Ms. Collins presented a proclamation for the Court's consideration. Ms. Collins read the proclamation:

Before the Malheur County Court, Malheur County, Oregon

Proclaiming the Month of April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016, the Malheur County Court, finding that:

Preventing child abuse and neglect is important for a healthier community today and in the future.

1. Child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, lacking community resources, and/or the ability to cope with significant, multiple stressors.
2. The majority of child abuse cases involve children younger than 6 years of age and stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community.

3. Child abuse and neglect cases not only directly harm children, but also increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, and later, health problems such as heart disease and obesity.
4. All residents of Malheur County have a role to play in supporting families in raising children in safe, nurturing environments, and benefit from a healthier community.
5. For six years, the Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery has served more than 250 vulnerable children and their families through a two-generational model proven to reduce the risk factors for child maltreatment.
6. Effective child abuse prevention efforts succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community in the western Treasure Valley.

Therefore, the Malheur County Commissioners proclaim:

April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Malheur County, Oregon, in recognition of the important role TVCRN plays in strengthening families and keeping our youngest children safe.

Commissioner Hodge moved to proclaim April 2016 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Malheur County. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **CALICO RESOURCES**

Vance Thornberry from Calico Resources and Consultant Andy Bentz briefly visited with the Court. Calico Resources has agreed to merge with Paramount Gold Nevada. It was explained that the merger preserves the integrity of the Grassy Mountain project moving forward. As part of the merger, the officers and directors of Calico will be mandated to resign. Mr. Thornberry may continue as a consultant on the project and Mr. Bentz will continue in his consultant role with the project.

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Court Minutes of March 9, 2016 as written. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **AOC DUES**

The Court discussed the 2016 Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) dues. Commissioner Hodge moved to authorize the payment of the 2016 dues in the amount of \$18,532.65. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **AMENDMENT - IGA #148021**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Fourth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2015-2017 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Financing of Public Health Services. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The amendment modifies Program Element #09 "Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) Ebola Supplement 2" and Program Element #10 "Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Case Management Services". A copy will be returned electronically for recording.

**DEED - REF#3958**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Statutory Bargain and Sale Deed to Stella Doughty for Ref. #3958. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The property was part of the 2013 Foreclosure and to be sold at the April County Land Sale. The property taxes have now been paid in full. See instrument #[2016-0861](#)

**OWYHEE CANYONLANDS - LETTER**

Commissioner Wilson moved to sign a letter to Senators Merkley and Wyden regarding the Canyonlands advisory vote. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2016-0863](#)

Commissioner Wilson mentioned that the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition has been formed as a 501(c)(6); and is contracting with the Gallatin Group. The Gallatin Group will make a presentation to the citizen's taskforce March 22, 2016 at 1:00p.m. at the Extension Office.

**BUDGET BOARD VACANCY**

There is still one vacant position on the County Budget Board.

**COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Court was adjourned.