

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
March 15, 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. 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 #2023-684

IS DEPARTMENT

Information Services (IS) Director Joshua Kreger met with the Court and explained about rewiring projects for the server room at the Health Department and Courthouse; both server rooms will be relocated.

Bids for both projects were solicited from several companies; Enhanced Telecommunications was the only company that provided bids. The County's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds will be used to complete both projects. Commissioner Mendiola moved to proceed with the projects as bid by Enhanced Telecommunications and use ARPA funding for the projects. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Court discussed a request to replace the engine in the Sheriff's Office boat; the boat was donated by Idaho Power and is owned by the County so ARPA funding can be used. Commissioner Jacobs moved to authorize the use of ARPA funds to replace the engine. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ARPA AND LATCF FUNDING

Commissioner Jacobs moved that there be a moratorium on the use of ARPA and LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) funds (for new projects) as there are several current projects that need to be completed; Ms. DuBois is currently working on the 2023-2024 budget; and an application process with defined criteria has not yet been developed for entities outside the County to apply through. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY LAND SALE

Tax/Treasurer Office Management Assistant Angie Micheli met with the Court and presented the list of properties for the 2023 County Land Sale. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Order GO-04-23: Order for the Sale of County Properties. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The County Land Sale will be held April 25, 2023. See instrument # 2023-692

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #12-23 to Idaho Power Company for work on 5th Avenue E #579; Permit #13-23 to Oregon Idaho Utilities for work on Big Bend Road #1104; and Permit #14-23 to Idaho Power Company for work on Hyline Road #911. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of March 8, 2023 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IGA #1447 - AMENDMENT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Amendment #9 to Intergovernmental Agreement #1447 between Oregon Department of Corrections and Malheur County Health Department. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The maximum, not-to-exceed compensation payable to the County under the agreement is increased. See instrument #2023-705

FUNDING RELATIONSHIP WITH MCDC

County Counsel Stephanie Williams discussed with the Court the County's financial relations with Malheur County Development Corporation (MCDC). The current funding agreement with MCDC expires June 2023 and was to pay for the duties of the Treasure Valley Reload Center (TVRC) project manager (Greg Smith); included \$55,000 for special services and supplies; payment of bank fees and interest on the line of credit; and an addendum for \$2 million for Track C. MCDC wants to contract with Shawna Peterson for executive director services and the current funding agreement doesn't fit the description of services proposed by Ms. Peterson. An amendment could be done for now through June 2023; another agreement would need to be drafted for the upcoming fiscal year; or an agreement could be drafted for a shorter period of time - such as through December 2023. The revocable license for office space at the Goodfellow building also needs terminated; that space will be needed for the County Economic Development Director. (MCDC Chair Grant Kitamura is agreeable to terminating the office space agreement.) Ms. Peterson's proposal is for 70 hours a month at a rate of \$8725 per month (additional legal services would be \$250 per hour) and includes services such as stakeholder engagement, public information officer, advocacy, board logistics, and point of contact for MCDC. Ms. Peterson also suggested engagement of a consultant for project and fiscal management. MCDC wants to utilize the services of Ms. Peterson immediately and would like the Court to authorize funding for at least 30 days while a new funding agreement is negotiated. MCDC may also want to change their bylaws and articles of incorporation to add an executive director position and maybe change the duties of officer to the board. Additionally, the line of credit expires May 2023; MCDC would like to extend it to at least December 2023. Extending the line of credit would require the County to pay off the interest and the bank fee to extend it. Commissioner Jacobs moved to authorize funding to MCDC for Ms. Peterson's services for the next 30 days and take the other matters under advisement. After discussion, Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PIONEER PLACE

Pioneer Nursing Home Health District (aka - Pioneer Place) CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Corey Crismon, and staff members Lexi Browning and Chelsey Ross met with the Court. Pioneer Place is requesting \$100,000 to help fund four projects that will impact operations of its facility: Secondary fuel source for generator (\$7,500); New call light system and pendants (\$30,000); Plumbing to replace original cast iron pipes from Room 103 to the street (\$48,000); and Update dietary (kitchen) plumbing (\$50,000). Pioneer Place has found a grant writer and is pursuing the Scott Fairley Memorial grant through Eastern Oregon Border Board for \$25,000. Ms. DuBois explained that the County is evaluating its infrastructure needs; when the County is ready to take funding requests it will be through a defined application process - this process has not been determined yet. See instrument # 2023-685 for the written request.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.