

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

March 18, 2020

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 Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth, District Attorney Dave Goldthorpe, Clerk Gayle Trotter, Health Department Director Sarah Poe, Environmental Health Director Craig Geddes, Planner Eric Evans, Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards, Juvenile Department Director Susan Gregory, Sanitarian Trainee Jessica Alexander; and Lifeways CFO (Chief Financial Officer) Steve Jensen. Present telephonically were Building Official Adele Schaffeld, Veterans Service Officer Connie Tanaka, Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany, and Ambulance Service District Coordinator Bob Dickinson. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website and Courthouse public 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 #[2020-1027](#)

GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION - ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Assessor Dave Ingram met with the Court and presented a grant resolution for the Court's consideration. Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Grant Application Resolution No. R20-11 for the Department of Revenue's County Assessment Function Funding Assessment (CAFFA) Program. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. By approving the resolution, the County agrees to appropriate budgeted dollars based on 100 percent of the expenditures certified in the grant application amount of \$1,086,689. See instrument #[2020-1019](#)

PRESENTATION TO COMMISSIONER HODGE

Commissioner Wilson presented Commissioner Hodge with a photo collage commemorating the birth of Commissioner Hodge's first grandchild.

Sheriff Brian Wolfe and Emergency Services Lieutenant Rich Harriman joined the meeting.

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

Environmental Health Director Craig Geddes shared a computerized illustration on "flattening the curve" and "social distancing" in regards to the current Coronavirus outbreak. The spread of the virus can be slowed by practicing social distancing (such as avoiding public places and gatherings, staying home more often and keeping at least a three-foot distance from others). In a typical outbreak of illnesses there is a big spike, they hit a peak, and then start dropping down. If the Coronavirus is allowed to run the typical course it will overwhelm the health care system and the mortality rate will drastically increase. (This has been evidenced in other countries that experienced outbreaks prior to the U.S.) Social distancing measures are aimed at flattening the curve; this does not mean there will be less cases but rather the cases will be spread out over a longer period of time with the goal of keeping the cases within the capacity of the health care system. Oregon currently has closed schools through at least April 28; gatherings are limited to 25 people or less with the recommendation of no more than 10; and no onsite dining is allowed at restaurants - takeout and drive-thru orders only.

Health Department Director Sarah Poe provided an update on Coronavirus - as of this morning Oregon has 65 cases; worldwide there are over 204,000 cases. Currently there are zero positive cases in Malheur county however only ten tests have been done in two months due to limited testing supplies and limited resources must be focused on those with the highest risks and symptoms. Without the ability to test the people who are less symptomatic it is difficult to determine who to isolate and not isolate; it is unknown who is potentially infectious or not. Until more people can be tested and the community spread slows drastically we need to follow the strict social distancing guidelines. Three commercial labs are now able to test and it is hoped to have more providers able to test soon. Without increased testing capacity there has to be the aggressive social distancing measures as it is unknown who is infected and it is known that a large group of people can carry the virus and not show any symptoms - to include approximately 13% of children. Those who show symptoms need to stay home; everyone needs to maintain distances of three to six feet from each other; reduce gatherings to less than 25 (preferably ten); and reduce activity to essential only (travel to work, grocery store, pharmacy, etc.). Child care facilities are likely to be reduced and prioritized to those providing essential services such as health care workers. Employers are asked to allow work-at-home by employees whenever possible; this allows for care of children at home as well as quarantine-at-home provisions when called for. Adherence to CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines is encouraged such as disinfecting surfaces (the virus can live on plastic and stainless steel for two to three days); and washing hands frequently for 20 seconds. This virus is most severely impacting persons over the age of 60 or those who have underlying health conditions; but it is spread often by people in the community who are often younger and may not present severe symptoms. Local hospitals are reporting that they are very busy as this has already been a busy flu season and we need to ensure that the hospitals have the capacity to care for those patients as well as anticipated COVID-19 patients. This virus is different from the flu as there is no immunity to it; there is no vaccine; there is no specific treatment; and there is limited testing available.

Reliable information on the virus can be found at malheurhealth.org; healthoregon.org/coronavirus; and cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.

The doubling rate of the virus is every 6.2 days. Without the social distancing measures, it is predicated there may be approximately 75,000 cases in Oregon before May.

Lieutenant Rich Harriman read a resolution declaring a state of emergency due to COVID-19. Commissioner Wilson moved to declare the state of emergency and sign Resolution R20-10: In the Matter of Declaring a State of Emergency within Malheur County. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2020-1025](#).

Lieutenant Harriman explained that more funding is needed than what is currently budgeted; and that the limit on his credit card has been exceeded as he is trying to purchase protective equipment for law enforcement and emergency management agencies throughout the county that may need resources (the limit on the credit card needs increased). Fire departments, ambulances, jail, medical clinics and hospitals all need PPE (personal protective equipment). Resources must be expended before a request to the State can be made. Mr. Dickinson explained that resources for procuring PPE have been exhausted and supply is limited for first responders; there is a huge demand and need for the equipment.

Ms. Poe read a draft press release regarding the declaration. Commissioner Wilson moved to approve the distribution of the press release. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2020-1028](#).

Various questions were asked and discussed by the Court and those present regarding COVID-19; entities are taking various measures to help slow the spread of the virus.

Deputy Cindy Padgett and County Counsel Stephanie Williams joined the meeting.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY

Sheriff Wolfe and County staff visited with the Court about expanding courthouse security. Consensus was to schedule a meeting with courthouse department heads/elected officials and circuit court to further discuss the topic.

GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-04

Commissioner Wilson discussed Governor Brown's Executive Order No. 20-04 which directs state agencies to take actions to reduce/regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The Executive Order affects building codes and will greatly increase costs (more than just building codes will be affected by the executive order). Ms. Schaffeld will work with staff to draft a resolution in opposition to Governor Brown's Executive Order No. 20-04.

AMENDMENT - IGA #159173

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Eighth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2019-2021 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery, & Prevention, and Problem Gambling Services Agreement #159173 (original IGA is recorded as instrument #[2019-2611](#)). Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Residential Community Mental Health Treatment Services for Adults (MHS 28) funds are awarded for Invoice Services. See instrument #[2020-1109](#)

WARRANTY DEED

Commissioner Wilson moved to accept Warranty Deed from H2MK, LLC for the property that will be used for Malheur Council on Aging's bus barn expansion project. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The deed will be returned for recording by Oregon Department of Transportation.

NYSSA INDUSTRIES PROPERTY

Judge Joyce moved to notify Nyssa Industries Inc. that the Court was letting the purchase and sale agreement expire. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Wilson abstained.

AMENDMENT - IGA #159822

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Seventh Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2019-2021 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (Original IGA is recorded as instrument #[2019-3374](#)) The amendment adds \$58,875 to Program Element 01-04 COVID-19 Response. A copy of the amendment will be returned for recording.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.

