

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

April 3, 2019

County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Juvenile Department Director Susan Gregory.

PROCLAMATION - WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Kelly Poe, Eastern Oregon Hub Director of Community Based Services met with the Court and presented a proclamation for their consideration. Ms. Poe read the proclamation as follows:

PROCLAMATION

MALHEUR COUNTY WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

WHEREAS, The Eastern Oregon Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) are celebrating the Week of the Young Child, April 7-13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, These organizations promote and inspire work knowing the first years of a child's life is the period of most rapid development that lay the foundation for all future learning and success; and

WHEREAS, All babies are born learners with incredible potential, and every experience they have is a learning experience; and

WHEREAS, All young children need loving, nurturing relationships with the adults in their lives (parents, family members, and caregivers) and these experiences are essential for young children's healthy development; and

WHEREAS, Children's cognitive, physical, social and emotional, and language and literacy development are built on a foundation of children's positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment; and

WHEREAS, High quality early care and education programs provide important benefits to children, families and our county's, state and nation's economies; and

WHEREAS, Young children need skilled, educated, competent, consistent, and compensated early childhood educators; and

WHEREAS, Families need sufficient high-quality early care and education to be available in the community from birth onward to support and nurture healthy development; and

WHEREAS, Early Childhood educators need the ability to earn a family-sustaining wage that is commensurate with the required education and skills that they bring to the complex and valuable work that they do; and

WHEREAS, Public policies and public investments that support early learning are vital to all our citizens, we thank and recognize all those who make a difference in the lives of young children. NOW, THEREFORE, We, the County Court of Malheur County, do hereby proclaim the week of April 7-13, 2019 as:

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

in Malheur County and encourage all county residents to join in this observance.

Signed and dated this 3rd day of April, 2019.

The Court signed the proclamation.

An exhibit opening will take place at the Cultural Center this Friday at 5:00 p.m.

Planner Eric Evans, Clerk Gayle Trotter, and Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth joined the meeting.

GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION - ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Assessor Dave Ingram met with the Court and presented a grant resolution for the Court's consideration. Commissioner Hodge moved to approve 2019-2020 Grant Application Resolution No. R19-09 for the Department of Revenue's County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) Program. By approving the resolution, the County agrees to appropriate budgeted dollars based on 100 percent of the expenditures certified in the grant application in the amount of \$1,058,422. See instrument #[2019-1248](#)

JOINT OAI POSITION WITH ASSESSOR/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Ms. DuBois explained that her part-time staff position (3 days a week) will be vacant soon. Ms. DuBois and Mr. Ingram would like to share a person in order to have the position be full-time (3 days in the Administrative Office/2 days in the Assessor's Office (the Assessor's Office would be a new position)); it is hoped that by making the position full-time there will be less staff turnover as it has been hard to keep a 3-day a week employee in the Administrative Office. Mr. Ingram said his office could use the part-time position as in 2010 they took over the manufactured home transfers from the Tax Office; the cartographer position was eliminated approximately 6 years ago when GIS was absorbed into the Assessor's Office; indexing, filing, scanning, and cross training have suffered; and more public walk-ins are happening. The Court took the request under advisement.

FAIRGROUNDS UPDATE

Fairgrounds Manager Lynelle Christiani met with the Court and provided an update of activities. Ms. Christiani continues to pursue grants for new entry gates at the fairgrounds; various local high school groups are working on gate designs. Efforts continue with the City to tie the wash

rack overflow into the City system; and work continues to garner rodeo banner/chute sponsorships and Red Barn awards.

Ms. Christiani spoke at the House Ways and Means Committee March 25th; the following was her presentation to the Committee:

*Good afternoon, I'm Lynelle Christiani from the Malheur County Fairgrounds in Ontario. Thank you for allowing me time here today to share our story. Malheur County is a rural county of 30,000 in the SE corner of Oregon. The County Fairgrounds is the nucleus for our agricultural community. It is the largest venue for County residents to gather. During the fair week nearly 20,000 people come through our gates. During the other weeks of the year the Board rents out our facility for private & public events. Last year 30,000 additional people came to our facility for one or more of those events. Our Fair Board is responsible for maintaining the fairgrounds property which includes buildings, roadways, RV camping areas and arena. The Board works to encourage and develop interest and education in agriculture, industry and home economics for fair exhibits, activities and entertainment. The Board also works to foster youth education and participation in Fair activities through such organizations as The Boys and Girls Club, 4-H and FFA. The Boards' goal is to maintain and improve the grounds to assure future generations our facility will be here to house their Fairs. Our Board is fiscally sound regarding day to day operations and in producing the annual County Fair. However, any and all projects or major improvements and repairs are dependent on grant monies, donations and monies from the State apportionment. We have increased our facility bookings and are promoting the fairgrounds; we are slowly becoming a destination and complete event center. We believe it is important to reflect our pride and professionalism in our buildings and grounds. The money we get from **our** County's Economic Development fund goes directly into our maintenance line item. All of the additional income we make from booking events **all goes back into the buildings and grounds**. We also have written many grants to make necessary repairs and improvements. We would like to initiate a proactive maintenance program at our facility. However, like many County Fairs, financially, we struggle to keep up our facility. You may have heard the love of Agriculture is dying in our Country. Not so in Malheur County. There are 900 4-H & FFA members in the County. As a County Fair we have the largest beef market show in the northwest. All of our livestock barns are filled to capacity. The Fair Board is now working with the local Boys and Girls Club and other local groups to bring the urban kids into our Fair family. Our Fair kids are the next generation of community business owners and service club members. Our Fair kids are statistically not the folks that end up in the prison system. In 2018 we had over 500 youth and adults participating at Fair. The Junior Livestock Sale sold 240 animals, bringing into our community over \$500,000. That money will be invested in future projects, college and careers in Agriculture in our community. The Boards' goal is to maintain and improve the grounds to assure future generations that our facility will be here to house their Fairs. Being 'involved' in the community is something that is taught to our youth by example. Our Board is dedicated to being a partner in the community that helps to facilitate 'giving back'. Currently our Fair Board has entered into a partnership with the 6 local FFA Chapters in our County to **design, build and replace** the existing 5 exterior gates at the Malheur County Fairgrounds. This project focuses on education in Agriculture. It also focuses on 'Community'. Our goal is to build 5 amazing gates. But that is not all that we are building. We want to instill in our youth 1) giving back to the community. 2) Teamwork and 3) Seeing a project through to completion; leaving*

their mark (their gate design) for their kids and grandkids to enjoy. Our Board wants to be part of 'community pride' continuing. What's a better place for these kids to leave their mark than at the nucleus of our County? Most of these kids have great childhood memories of coming to the Fair. The Fair Board wants to create a vested partnership with these teenagers. We need this next generation excited to see success at the end of a project. These youth are the next generation of Fair Board members, City Councilman and State Legislatures. We are asking that you invest in our communities. So we can succeed today and our fairgrounds will be around for generations to come.

Walk-ins to the Fair office averaged 5 per day in March and phone calls averaged 17 per day. The juvenile work crew worked at the facility over Spring Break; and the County work crew has helped a lot at the facility. Travelers, boarding their horses overnight at the facility, continue to be problematic; mostly due to the travelers not making advanced arrangements and instead they phone late at night expecting someone to unlock the horse stalls and accommodate them. Advisory Board Member Dave Tschida has been working with the new Caretaker, GW Clark. Numerous volunteers are needed in the Red Barn for this year's Fair - Supervisor(s), Textile Superintendent, Photography Superintendent, and Foods Superintendent.

UNCOLLECTIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth met with the Court and presented information on uncollectible personal property tax accounts. Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Order GO-04-19: In the Matter of Uncollectible Taxes on Personal Property Situated within Malheur County and the Cancellation Thereof. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Three accounts were cancelled; total charge off is \$1,535.38. See instrument [#2019-1253](#)

Ms. Trotter and Ms. Gregory left the meeting.

SAGE GROUSE RULE PERMIT

Planner Eric Evans met with the Court and provided a brief update relating to the Sage Grouse Rule Permit and a current application in the Planning Department for a cell tower in the Burns Junction area. The Rule only applies to sage-grouse habitat present in Baker, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Union, Crook and Deschutes Counties. Malheur County is roughly 6,355,193.6 acres; 4,556,120.424 of those acres are in significant sage grouse habitat (approximately 72% of Malheur County). A developer is currently trying to put in a cellphone tower in the southern area of Malheur County; this is needed infrastructure for the safety and health of the public. Discussions with ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) are being held regarding compensatory mitigation for the project as the Sage Grouse Rule applies; ODFW is indicating that approximately 230 functional acres would be damaged by the proposed cell tower; and compensatory mitigation in the amount of possibly \$1million. The Court stressed the need for improved cellphone infrastructure in remote areas of Malheur County and requested Mr. Evans keep them apprised.

ORDINANCE OFFICER

Judge Joyce asked Mr. Evans his opinion on the need for an Ordinance Officer. Mr. Evans explained the need for an Ordinance Officer from the Planning Department's perspective and

explained that there are several departments that would benefit by having a dedicated Ordinance Officer. Ms. DuBois confirmed the position is in the proposed 2019-2020 budget and will be discussed at the upcoming budget meetings.

COURT MINUTES

Judge Joyce moved to approve Court Minutes of March 27, 2019. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed. (Commissioner Hodge was not present on March 27, 2019.)

STIF COMMITTEE

Commissioner Wilson moved to appoint Adam Brown and Ed Susman to the State Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The STIF Advisory Committee is comprised of: Lorinda DuBois, Jane Padgett, Laurie Smith, Brittany White, Susan Robinett, Ed Susman, and Adam Brown; Judge Dan Joyce is the Governing Body Official.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution R19-07: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.471. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The purpose of the supplemental budget is to allocate Oregon Emergency Management 911 Program funds that were received but not anticipated when the adopted budget was prepared; these are reimbursement funds in the amount of \$8,885 for the purchase of a new UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply) system. See instrument #[2019-1254](#)

QUITCLAIM DEED - POTTER

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Quitclaim Deed to Kathleen and Benjamin Potter for Ref. #4518. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This property was tax foreclosed property purchased through the Tax Office. See instrument #[2019-1252](#)

COURT ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.