

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**April 5, 2017**

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 were John Braese of the Malheur Enterprise and Larry Meyer of the Argus Observer.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - STAFF VACANCY(S)**

District Attorney Dave Goldthorpe and Management Assistant Marilee Aldred met with the Court and discussed two upcoming vacant staff positions (Deputy DA and Victims Advocate Director). Mr. Goldthorpe acknowledged the current hiring freeze and budget restraints as his office had earlier returned approximately \$13,000 to the General Fund Contingency. Mr. Goldthorpe requested authorization to fill the entry level Deputy DA position immediately as the position is responsible for a large number of misdemeanor cases in Circuit Court and there is a strong public safety interest in having a full prosecutorial staff. The Victims Advocate Director position will not be filled at this time; current staff will absorb the responsibilities and if additional grant funding should be secured in the future then it may be requested to hire an additional victims' advocate.

**JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION (JCP) PLAN**

Juvenile Department Director Susan Gregory met with the Court and presented the 2017-2019 Youth Development Council (YDC) Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Plan. The plan will continue to focus on the same programs and services already in place and will continue to focus on skill building, mentoring, and interventions in an effort to reduce the identified risk factors and increase the protective factors. The population to be served is youth ages 10 to 17 years who reside in Malheur County or whose family resides in Malheur County; they may be offenders or non-offenders. Each of the services/programs scheduled for renewed funding for the 2017-2019 grant period are designed to assist efforts in decreasing criminal youth behaviors and improve outcomes for youth who are disconnected from, or are at risk of disconnecting from, the education system or entering the juvenile justice system. The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) has approved the plan. Commissioner Wilson moved to approve the 2017-2019 YDC Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # [2017-1172](#)

Ms. Gregory also reminded the Court of the Postvention Suicide Training scheduled for April 6 and 7; 50 individuals have signed up for the training.

**COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Court Minutes of March 22, 2017 as written. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution No. R17-12: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.471.

Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The resolution allocates funds from reimbursed trainings in the amount of \$6,168 that were received, but not anticipated when the adopted budget was prepared. See instrument # [2017-1169](#)

### **QUITCLAIM DEED**

Commissioner Hodge moved to accept Quitclaim Deed from Wells Fargo Bank for County property Ref. #3778. The deed extinguishes the Grantees interest in the property; and the property will be sold at the County land tax foreclosure sale. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # [2017-1173](#) and [2017-1174](#)

### **RESOLUTION - SUPPORTING TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PACKAGE**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution R17-13: A Resolution in Support of a Transportation Funding Package in the 2017 Legislative Session. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is working on behalf of Oregon counties to pass a transportation funding package in the 2017 legislative session and the resolution will be forwarded to AOC. See instrument # [2017-1170](#)

### **ROAD ACCEPTANCE/PARTITION PLAT**

Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards met with the Court and presented a partition plat with a road dedication for the Court's consideration. Commissioner Wilson moved to accept road dedication from Hollingsworths' Inc. Of Ontario Partition Plat #17-03, for an unnamed road to be developed at a future date. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2017-1168](#)

### **ASSESSOR'S OFFICE - GRANT RESOLUTION**

Assessor Dave Ingram met with the Court and presented the Assessment and Taxation grant application which partially funds the office. Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Grant Application Resolution 2017-2018. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. By approving the resolution, the County agrees to appropriate the budgeted dollars based on 100% of the expenditures certified in the grant application in the amount of \$983,851. See instrument #[2017-1171](#)

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF VACANCY**

Health Department Director Angie Gerrard met with the Court and requested authorization to fill a vacant Accounting Specialist position; the primary responsibility of the position is billing of patients, insurance companies and Medicaid. Ms. Gerrard explained that there is an interim plan in place to do the billing duties and other tasks until the position is filled. Commissioner Wilson requested that Ms. Gerrard provide the Court with a list of each position in the Health Department and include their duties and associated workload; Ms. Gerrard agreed to provide the information.

Mr. Braese left the meeting.

### **OWYHEE IRRIGATION - BOAT RAMP AT OWYHEE RESERVOIR**

Owyhee Irrigation Manager Jay Chamberlin and Director Frank Ausman met with the Court. Mr. Chamberlin explained that at their recent annual meeting of water users, the Owyhee

Irrigation District Board of Directors made a motion to move forward with opening the boat ramp at Owyhee Reservoir. Mr. Chamberlin has notified Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) of the motion.

Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards joined the session.

Mr. Chamberlin explained that the needed repair was made and the gate is installed. A new slab was poured with an expandable fabric and draped off to the side and concrete barriers will be set down along the side. Recommendations for the boat ramp include: installation of an adjustable buoy line to keep all watercrafts out of the intake structure area at all times; seasonal closures at certain reservoir elevations, as conditions dictate, for safe use; signage at the top of the ramp including a description of the use of the ramp and a map of others available suitable for ADA needs; concrete barrier to keep boats and trailers from dropping off the shoulder of the ramp; and the Sheriff's Office will have their own lock and key for emergency use of the ramp. Other recommendations include installation of a kiosk located downstream from the dam in the area before the road and bridge into the compound which would have signage and general information on the campgrounds and boat ramps that can easily be understood by recreationists to help them make informed decisions before heading up to the reservoir; State Parks could also use this area to post campground availability and other needed information.

Mr. Chamberlin explained that BOR indicated that its contractual agreement with the County is not active and that they (BOR) need an active partner. Mr. Chamberlin and Mr. Ausman said it may be possible for the Joint Committee to partner with BOR and it will be discussed at their upcoming April 18th meeting (the Joint Committee has oversight of the dam and hydros). Commissioner Wilson indicated the County would join the partnership also if needed. Mr. Chamberlin said he will keep the Court updated on the matter.

### **STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT MONIES FROM GOVERNORS OFFICE**

County Counsel Stephanie Williams discussed the governor's office structural assessment project for winter storm damaged ag/commercial buildings in Malheur County. The governor's office is allotting \$250,000 for engineers to inspect buildings for their structural integrity. OSU (Oregon State University) Extension has compiled a list of persons interested in having their buildings inspected (approximately 130 buildings). The County has been asked to draft and complete a request for qualifications for a pool of engineers; distribute applications to the interested landowners (applications are to be received by the County no later than May 5th); the applications would then be evaluated and buildings would be assigned to engineers (by May 22nd); the engineers must review the applications, conduct a visual damage assessment report, and have the landowner signoff on the damage assessment (by June 22nd). Invoices from the engineers would be submitted to the County for payment and the County would request reimbursement from the state. The Court discussed the process; concern was expressed about staff being responsible for reviewing and determining what applicants would receive inspections; the short timeframe for completing the project; engaging enough engineers to complete the project; no assurance that there are enough funds to inspect all the buildings; and funding the project upfront with reimbursement to come later from the state. Ms. Williams is attempting to obtain at least five to seven requests for qualifications by Friday (April 7). Additionally, the

state is drafting a contract that they want the County to sign at next week's County Court meeting. The Court suggested further discussion with the state.

Judge Joyce left the meeting for a short while.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Consensus of the Court was that the DA's Office could proceed with the advertising/hiring process for the Deputy DA position but the person hired could not start employment until July 1, 2017.

**COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Judge Joyce adjourned Court.