

**MALHEUR COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 19-20, 2022**

The Malheur County Budget Committee convened on April 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse to consider the 2022/2023 budget with Judge Dan Joyce, Commissioner Don Hodge, and Commissioner Ron Jacobs; Budget Committee Members Rod Price and Janice Belnap; and Budget Officer Lorinda DuBois. Budget Committee Member Bob Skinner was absent. Those persons discussing the budget with the Budget Committee were present electronically or in person as were members of the media and public. Notice of the meeting was published in the Argus Observer and on the County website 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 # 2022-2033

**BUDGET MESSAGE & APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Judge Joyce: So, it says I need to say a few words before I nominate a Chair. Lorinda, appreciate all of the efforts that you've done with this budget. Nice to see you Janice, back after many, many years. Rod, thank you. We have a number of people on the screen today that will present from the screen in light of the new transparency that we have for our County Court meetings. With that I nominate Rod as the Chair as he is the most senior member at this time.

**INFORMATION SERVICES (IS) DEPARTMENT**

IS Director Joshua Kreger discussed Page 3 - Information Services and Page 81 - IS Tech Fund. Implementation of Office 365 will require a lot of training; new expense line for Cloud Services; Computer Maintenance includes funding for social media archiving.

**COURT SECURITY; DRUG COURT; MEDIATION**

Trial Court Administrator Marilee Aldred discussed Page 61 - Court Facilities Security; Page 62 - State Drug Court Fund; and Page 63 - State Mediation Fund. These are special fund budgets and can only be used for specific uses designated for the fund. It is hoped that the Legislature will allocate funding for court security. Participation in Drug Court has been low due to COVID; working with the DA's office to increase participation.

**JUVENILE DEPARTMENT**

Juvenile Department Director Susan Gregory discussed Pages 15-16 - Juvenile Department; Page 58 - Juvenile Crime Prevention; and Page 72 – MS (Measure) 11 Detention Fund. New revenue line is for revenue received from Oregon Youth Authority for expunction of juvenile records per recent legislation; office staff is performing the expunction duties.

**SNAKE RIVER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE (SREDA)**

SREDA Executive Director Kristen Nieskens requested funding to support SREDA. SREDA encompasses Payette and Washington Counties (Idaho) and Malheur County and markets the 3 counties in 2 states as 1 region. Membership dues for public entities is based on a \$1/population, but not to exceed \$10,000. See instrument # 2022-2034 for related documents.

## **VETERANS SERVICE**

Veterans Service Officer Connie Tanaka discussed Page 32 - Veterans Service and Page 66 - CVSO (County Veterans Service Officer) Expansion Fund. Mr. Tanaka assists veterans with filing for service connected disability compensation; non-service connected pensions; education benefits; VA (Veterans Affairs) home loan certificates of eligibility; state benefits such as property tax exemptions, free hunting and fishing licenses, state parks pass, permanent veterans licenses plates; rides to medical appointments; and also assists surviving spouses of veterans. It was noticed that funds for Rent/Utilities was left out of the budget; \$3,000 was added to that expense line. The part-time staff position previously funded out of the CVSO Expansion Fund budget is vacant and is no longer needed; those funds were allocated to the advertising & promotions expense line.

## **GENERAL FUND NON-DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES**

Page 1 – General Fund Non-Departmental Revenues was reviewed; these are revenue sources not tied to a specific department.

## **COUNTY COURT**

Page 2 - County Court was reviewed.

## **COUNTY COUNSEL**

Page 4 - County Counsel was reviewed.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

Page 7 - Administrative Office was reviewed. An expense line for Recruitment was added.

## **WATERMASTER**

Page 35 - Watermaster was reviewed. The State Watermaster office is in the Courthouse; the budget is \$1,000.

## **LAW LIBRARY**

Page 49 - Law Library was reviewed.

## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

District Attorney Dave Goldthorpe and Management Assistant Stephanie Cummings discussed Pages 9-10 - District Attorney; Page 11 - VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Grant/DA (District Attorney); Page 12 - CAMI (Child Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Intervention) Grant/DA; Page 14 - CFA (Criminal Fine Account)/DA; and Page 51 - DA Enforcement. The District Attorney's Office has a child support enforcement division, victim's services division, and the criminal trial division. Mr. Goldthorpe requested the DA Supplement be increased to \$12,000. See instrument # 2022-2035 for related documents.

### **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)**

SWCD Director Bret Cleaver discussed activities of SWCD and shared a power-point of project photos on how the SWCD assisted landowners in the County over the last year; and requested financial support in the amount of \$10,000. Funds for SWCD are appropriated from the Technical Assistance line in the Economic Development budget. See instrument # 2022-2036 for related documents.

### **PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL**

USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services)/Wildlife Services District Supervisor Shane Koyle and Wildlife Specialist Scott Phillips discussed predatory animal control activities; funding requested for the Wildlife Services program is \$84,500. Also present was public member Tom McElroy. Mr. Phillips explained it is important that private landowners notify him 24 hours before flying for coyotes (aerial hunting permit). See instrument # 2022-2039 for related documents.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

The budget meeting resumed after lunch.

### **EXTENSION SERVICE**

Present for the Extension Service budget discussion and the Extension Tax Service District budget discussion were: OSU (Oregon State University) Eastern Region Regional Director Natalie Kinion, OSU Malheur Experiment State Director Stuart Reitz, and Extension District Advisory Board Members Bob Komoto and Jeff Burkhardt.

Page 36 - Extension Service. The County provides on Office Manager at the Extension Office; \$4,500 in Materials & Services is in the proposed budget. Ms. Kinion requested the County reinstate Materials & Services general fund funding back to the FY2019/2020 amount of \$16,000. Ms. DuBois explained she has requested an accounting from OSU campus of the County funds it holds and has not received that accounting; Ms. Kinion will follow up on the request. Concern was expressed that OSU is not contributing adequate funding to support Extension and instead relying on the tax service district and County general fund; Mr. Reitz explained that OSU funding has not decreased (nor has it increased).

The County budget meeting was closed and the Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District budget meeting was opened.

### **EXTENSION TAX SERVICE DISTRICT**

Notice of the Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District budget meeting was published in the Argus Observer. Ms. Kinion and Mr. Reitz reviewed the budget for the tax service district. Funds are split between Extension Service and the Experiment Station. The Experiment Station uses the funds primarily for personnel. The Extension Service uses the funds for personnel and operating expenses. There is a large amount of funds in Contingency, partly due

to a shortage of staff. The Crop Agent position is still vacant and will be posted again. The 4-H position recently resigned and that vacancy is posted.

The Extension Service District budget meeting was closed and the County budget session was reopened.

### **MALHEUR COUNCIL ON AGING & COMMUNITY SERVICES (MCOA&CS)**

MCOA&CS Executive Director Sandy Shelton, Transportation Project Manager Brittany White, and Senior Program Manager Tom Longoria discussed funding requests to help support public transportation services and the Meals on Wheels program. \$15,000 was requested to utilize as match funds for the 5311 rural transportation grant; this request is in the Special Transportation Fund budget. \$15,000 was also requested to support the Meals on Wheels program; the program is currently serving 107 seniors throughout the county.

The County budget meeting was closed and the ASD (Ambulance Services District) budget meeting was opened.

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT (ASD)**

ASD Director Bob Dickinson presented the ASD Budget Message; notice of the budget meeting was published in the Argus Observer. ASD Budget Message: I am pleased to be here today to present the proposed budget for the Malheur County Ambulance Service District for FY 2022-2023. We are quickly approaching 32 years of operation in Malheur County. During that time, we have gained valuable experience in the role of EMS (Emergency Medical Services). EMS must determine how it can best serve community health while remaining the public emergency medical safety net in the rapidly changing healthcare environment. We need to provide improved measures with improved quality and efficiency while continually monitoring our progress.

Last year we witnessed a nearly 25% increase in medical calls, primarily due to COVID19 or COVID-19 related illnesses. That increase makes for exhausted healthcare employees. The County remains steadfast in its attempts to educate and recruit Qualified and Quality first responders and EMTs (Emergency Medical Technician) to join a talented and seasoned staff of healthcare professionals. However, Recruitment and retention remain challenging. In 2006 we had 140 certified volunteers and full-time EMS professionals; today, we have 70. Unfortunately, increased call volume, state training requirements, and low wages don't make for an important reason to volunteer.

In the past 32 years, the District has distributed over 4 million dollars to the EMS providers in Malheur County. These funds have assisted in purchasing ambulances, quick response units, state-of-the-art medical equipment, medications, insurance, education and training, and immunizations. The ASD Board and I are confident that our efforts are well placed.

I am currently working with the County Health Department Director and members of the state on a grant that will provide training for Community Paramedicine. What is Community Paramedicine? This medium is a model of community-based healthcare in which Paramedics and EMTs work outside their normal emergency response and healthcare roles. This healthcare model maximizes emergency care resources and enhances access to primary care for medically underserved populations and those medical needs that do not require an ambulance or a trip to the emergency room.

Illicit drugs and overdoses play a significant role in pre-hospital care today. Due to the overwhelming increase in drug overdoses, we partner with the Health Department and the Oregon Idaho High-intensity Drug Trafficking area. This program is ODMAP (Overdose Mapping Application Program). The Overdose Mapping and Application Program will provide near real-time suspected overdose surveillance data to support public safety and public health efforts in mobilizing and immediate response to a sudden increase or spike in overdose events. It links first responders and records management systems to a mapping tool to track overdoses and stimulate real-time response and strategic analysis across jurisdictions. In addition, we will be able to upload data in real-time via mobile device, view nationwide trends, and receive custom reports.

In closing, it is a privilege to serve the County. Underlying this success is the unifying commitment of the ASD Board and my office to exercise fiscal discipline, provide service with maximum efficiency and provide improved results to the County.

Mr. Dickinson reviewed the ASD budget. \$16.00 per household is collected to support the Ambulance Service District; this rate has been in place since 1997 and an increase is needed. Local trainings will be provided using the Education Fund.

The ASD budget meeting was closed and the County budget meeting was reopened.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Health Department Director Sarah Poe discussed Pages 28-29 - Health Department; and Page 30 - Medical Investigation. Approximately \$1.4 million in COVID funding is rolling over into the next fiscal year's budget. COVID work continues including case investigation, vaccine clinics, and outreach and education. Numerous programs and services are provided through the Health Department.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Environmental Health Director Craig Geddes discussed Page 19 - Solid Waste; and Page 31 - Environmental Health.

Solid Waste: Fees at Lytle Blvd. Landfill will increase July 1, 2022. The ACDP Permit/Fees expense line is for a new DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) required air quality control permit; the application fee is \$10,500 and the annual permit fee is \$8,500.

Environmental Health: Small Equipment is for adobe pro and new window blinds. Telephone/WIFI increase is due to the need for WIFI hot-spots for computers for the onsite inspection program while in the field.

### **ASSESSOR**

Ms. DuBois reviewed Page 6 - Assessor and Page 68 - GIS (Geographical Information System) Maintenance Fund. The cartographer contract is two days per week.

### **TAYLOR GRAZING FUND**

Page 53 - Taylor Grazing Fund was reviewed; this is federal funding and is used for range improvement projects.

### **SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND**

Page 57 - Special Transportation Fund was reviewed. Revenue is ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) Grant funds for transportation purposes and the County subcontracts with MCOA&CS to provide the services. The "5311 Match" is in this budget.

### **MENTAL HEALTH FUND**

Page 64 - Mental Health Fund was reviewed; funds are from the State and passed thru to Lifeways for mental health services and to Valley Family Health for school based mental health services.

### **45TH PARALLEL FUND**

Page 73 - 45th Parallel Fund was reviewed; funds can only be expended upon the agreement of the District Attorney and County Court.

### **RELOAD/INDUSTRIAL PARK PROJECT**

Page 76 - Reload/Industrial Park Project was reviewed; the interest payment for the Special Public Works Fund loan is budgeted in this fund. (The funds are transferred from the Economic Development Fund.)

### **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**

Page 77 - American Rescue Plan. Funds must be expended per the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); COVID response, mitigation and prevention; and provision of government services under the loss revenue category.

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Brian Wolfe, Undersheriff Travis Johnson, Lieutenant Rachel Reyna, Lieutenant Rich Harriman, and Lieutenant Jim St. Michell discussed Pages 22-23 - Sheriff; Pages 24-25 - Jail; Page 26 - MCSO (Malheur County Sheriff's Office) Communication Center; Page 27 - Emergency Management; Pages 47-48 - Community Corrections; Page 50 - Boat License Fund; Page 51 - Corrections Assessment; Page 54 - Task Force Fund; Page 59 - 911 Fund; Page 60 - Traffic Safety Fund; Page 67 - Search and Rescue Fund; Page 71 - Federal Forfeiture Fund; and Page 78 - Work Release Construction Fund.

Pages 22-23 - Sheriff: Vale School District will be contracting with the Sheriff's Office for a School Resource Deputy. Small Equipment is for the taser program as well as body cameras. Capital Outlay request for five new vehicles with cameras; the proposed budget is for three. Increases to fuel prices may make it difficult to stay within the travel/vehicle maintenance budget. Pages 24-25 - Jail: Staffing continues to be problematic in the jail. Capital Outlay expenses are for an upgrade project for the jail camera system and a transport vehicle.

Page 26 - MCSO Communication Center: Telephone expense line is increasing due to changes to the contract with CenturyLink.

Page 27 - Emergency Management: Repairs to the emergency management command trailer are needed as it was heavily used in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The AlertSense notification system had a 5% increase.

Pages 47-48 - Community Corrections: Revenue is from the State for the County to provide supervision services to individuals on parole and probation. Supervision Fees are no longer collected due to legislative changes. Funding for upgrades to the server is in the proposed budget; Lt. Harriman applied for a grant that if received will pay for the upgrades.

Page 50 - Boat License Fund; Page 51 - Corrections Assessment; Page 54 - Task Force Fund; Page 59 - 911 Fund; Page 60 - Traffic Safety Fund; Page 67 - Search and Rescue Fund; and Page 71 - Federal Forfeiture Fund are pass thru funds.

Page 78 - Work Release Construction Fund: Funds can only be used on the facility.

The meeting recessed for the day.