

MALHEUR COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 18-19, 2023

The Malheur County Budget Committee continued its meeting on April 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse to consider the 2023/2024 budget with Judge Dan Joyce, Commissioner Ron Jacobs, and Commissioner Jim Mendiola; Budget Committee Members Janice Belnap and Lee Newman; and Budget Officer Lorinda DuBois present. 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.

WEED CONTROL

Weed Inspector Amanda Zander discussed and answered questions concerning Page 37 – Weed Control. Additional BLM (Bureau of Land Management) Fire Grant funds are expected. Parts & Repair and Travel/Training line-items were increased this next fiscal year; Capital Outlay is to replace the truck bed.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany discussed and answered questions concerning Page 33 – Marine & Park; Pages 41-43 – Road Fund; Page 44 – Major Bridge Fund; Page 45 – Road Equipment Fund; and Page 46 – Road Improvement Fund.

Page 33 – Marine & Park: Marine Board MAP funds is a prediction based on previous years. Vale Oregon Irrigation District contributes \$2800 annually that is receded into Bully Creek Park Fees. Bureau of Reclamation does not directly contribute funding for park operations.

Pages 41-43 – Road Fund: The Exchange Fund program through ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) may be ending - Mr. Tiffany was advised to budget \$250,000 for this next fiscal year for the program. Several line-items were increased such as Shop Tools & Supplies, Tires, and Cattleguards. Rental Expense/Taxes is for the Brogan property that is rented out. Rental Equipment is for rental of equipment the Road Department may need.

Page 44 – Major Bridge Fund: \$50,000 was transferred from the Road Fund to the Major Bridge Fund.

Page 45 – Road Equipment Fund: Two graders will be paid off in December 2024.

Page 46 – Road Improvement Fund: There have been no landowner road improvement projects in many years.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

District Attorney Dave Goldthorpe and Management Assistant Sasha Goodell discussed and answered questions concerning 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 53 – DA Enforcement. It is hoped that the TCATT (Tri-County Anti-Trafficking Taskforce) grant will continue; the grant renewal is in October. The proposed budget is reflective of the TCATT grant not continuing; if it is continued a supplemental budget will be done. Mr. Goldthorpe requested an increase to his salary supplement; the requested budget is \$12,000 and the proposed budget is the current amount of \$10,000. An additional Legal Assistant position was also in the requested budget; it is not in the proposed budget. Legislative changes have put more burden on the office such as 30 days to provide full discovery and recording of grand jury proceedings; additionally, there is more usage of body cams and dash cams by law enforcement. There is currently legislation in the Ways and Means Committee that would fund victims' advocates services through State funding rather than through competitive grants. Victims services is a constitutional requirement. Ms. Goodell also expressed support for the requested new legal assistant position. See instrument # 2023-1182 for the written correspondence.

SURVEYOR

Surveyor Derrick McKrola discussed Page 38 – County Surveyor; and Page 47 – Surveyor Corner Preservation Fund. Materials & Supplies was increased for software licensing and training and Travel was increased for conferences.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

SWCD Director Bret Cleaver discussed activities of SWCD, shared a power-point of project photos on how the SWCD assisted landowners in the County over the last year, and answered questions; financial support in the amount of \$25,000 to retain newly hired staff as they are unable to increase grant funded salaries without providing additional match during the application process was requested. Funds for SWCD are appropriated from the Technical Assistance line in the Economic Development budget. See instrument # 2023-1183 for the written correspondence.

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 # 2023-1184 for SREDA's 2022 Annual Report, Action Plan, Operating Budget, and April 2023 Staff Report.

FAIRGROUNDS

Fairgrounds Manager Dawnita Haueter and Board member Jennifer Hall discussed Pages 56-57 – County Fair Fund. Numerous changes to the Fair budget were requested; additionally, it was requested that the County contribute \$25,000 from the Economic Development Fund to the Fair Fund. Increases were requested to Gas, Utilities; License Dues; Solar Project; Water; Power,

Electric; Office Supplies; Cleaning Fee Refund; Advertising, Publicity; Fair Contracted Services; Commercial Building Security Fee; Fair Judges/Consultants; and Commercial Building Rent. Admission rates to the Fair and the rodeo were discussed.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Department Director Sarah Poe discussed Pages 28-29 – Health Department; and Page 30 – Medical Investigation.

Pages 28-29 - Health Department: The majority of the Health Department budget pays for staff. Approximately \$250,000 in COVID funding is rolling over to the 2023/2024 fiscal year; \$265,000 for workforce development from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) is expected to be received; and \$302,000 in optional FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Assistance) reimbursement funds were received (this was a huge project that staff undertook). Family Connects is a new home visiting program rolling out and the Health Department is an early adopter; over \$200,000 was received for the community alignment work. This program has expanded the Home Visiting Program to the point that a Home Visiting Supervisor position was created for the next fiscal year. Rent is a new line-item; grants do not allow for building maintenance expenses but some do allow for rent expenses.

Page 30 - Medical Investigation: Dr. Brauer is the Medical Examiner; when he determines that an autopsy needs to be performed that expense is in this budget. Unattended deaths are investigated by deputy medical investigators (law enforcement); deputy medical investigators received \$35 per unattended death and this expense is also in this budget.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

The meeting resumed after lunch.

ONTARIO JUSTICE COURT

Justice of the Peace Margie Mahony discussed Page 13 – Ontario Justice Court. Rent and the Data Processing Expense contracts slightly increased.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Funding for SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation District) is allocated from the Technical Assistance line-item in the Economic Development Budget; SWCD has requested \$25,000. The Fair requested \$25,000 from the Economic Development budget; no transfer of funds to the Fair is in the proposed budget. Consensus of the budget committee was to appropriate \$10,000 for SREDA (Snake River Economic Development Alliance) (from the Technical Assistance line-item); and \$25,000 for SWCD

EXTENSION SERVICE

The Extension Service budget was again discussed. Mr. Newman expressed support for contributing additional support to the Extension Service budget as the number one economic

engine of our County is agriculture. It was discussed that the County general fund support for Materials & Services has become smaller as the Tax District's Contingency has grown.

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

AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT (ASD)

ASD Director Jeff Rodgers reviewed and answered questions concerning the ASD budget; notice of the budget meeting was published in the Argus Observer. The Vehicle Replacement Fund and Direct Payments to Providers line-items were increased. The Protocol Expense line-item is for an app the providers use. The ASD Coordinator position was reduced to part-time so there is a savings in personal services.

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

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Official Adele Schaffeld discussed Pages 74-75 – Building Department. A Plumbing Inspector position is proposed for the next fiscal year; it is hoped to advertise soon and have the person start work in July. Ten individuals attended the non-residential code training yesterday; a residential training will be held in the Fall and continuing ed credits may be available. (This is State training hosted by the Building Department.) Eastern Oregon Border Board has a Housing Incentive Program for new construction and a Property Improvement Rebate Program for properties in the Border Region (Vale does not participate in the programs.) The City of Ontario has its own building department; the County Building Department does the plumbing and electrical programs for the City of Ontario.

GENERAL FUND NON-DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES

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

Page 21- Non-Program was reviewed; it is planned to resurface and stripe the parking lot at the Goodfellow building this next fiscal year. Predatory Animal Control and Dog Control are in this fund. Both union agreements expire December 2024. County Parks is funding that can be used to assist Brogan Community Society with maintenance costs of the Brogan Park; the property is owned by the County; and receipts for reimbursement are required. The transfer to the Insurance Reserve fund is also in this budget.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Page 39 – Economic Development Fund. The Technical Assistance line includes: SWCD - \$25,000; SREDA - \$10,000; and Poverty to Prosperity - \$10,000; and \$35,000 for ODOT requests tied to funding requirements. Transfers are: Special Transportation Fund - \$15,000; Bookmobile - \$10,000; Extension Service - \$20,000; Reload/Industrial Park Project - \$76,500; transfer of funds to the Fairgrounds was not approved.

FAIRGROUNDS

The County Fair Fund was further discussed; frustration was expressed with the preparation of the Department Requested budget and the numerous changes requested at the budget committee meeting earlier in the day. After discussion, consensus was to make the requested changes to the proposed budget (with the exception of transferring \$25,000 from Economic Development to the Fair Fund).

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND

Page 58 – Special Transportation Fund was further reviewed; ODOT Grant revenues will be updated as needed when the ODOT agreements are received.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Page 77 – American Rescue Plan was reviewed. 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. Several projects have been completed, or are in various phases, with these funds.

LOCAL ASSIST LATCF

Page 79 – Local Assist LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) was reviewed; these funds are to be used to stabilize the programs the County government provides; and reporting requirements for these funds are following the ARPA reporting requirements. \$2 million has been committed for construction of Track C of the Treasure Valley Reload Center; and \$1.4 million was used to purchase the Ironhead property for use by the Sheriff's Office. An admin fee is proposed in this budget.

GENERAL COUNTY CONTINGENCY

Page 20 - General County Contingency was \$5,407,386.

APPROVALS

Judge Joyce moved to approve the budget for the Malheur County Ambulance Service District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$299,910. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed.

Judge Joyce moved to approve the budget for the Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$2,043,053; and moved to approve property taxes for the 2023-2024 fiscal year at the rate of \$0.23 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operating purposes in the District Special Fund. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Newman requested that the Extension budget be revised before its adoption.

Mr. Newman moved to approve the budget for Malheur County for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$62,266,601; and moved to approve property taxes for the 2023-2024 fiscal year at

the rate of \$2.5823 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operating purposes in the General Fund. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed.

See instrument # 2023-1185 for the agreed upon changes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.