

MALHEUR COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 20-21, 2021

The Malheur County Budget Committee continued its meeting on April 21, 2021 with Judge Dan Joyce and Commissioner Don Hodge present; Budget Committee Members Ron Haidle, Rod Price, and Bob Skinner present; and Commissioner Ron Jacobs present electronically. Also present was Budget Officer Lorinda DuBois. Those persons discussing the budget with the Budget Committee were present electronically or telephonically as were members of the media and public.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

District Attorney Dave Goldthorpe 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. Also present was Management Assistant Stephanie Cummings. COVID has contributed to a large backlog of trial cases and jury cases. A new proposal for the copy machine lease is under review. A majority of the victim services program is funded through grants; the VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) grant funding may be reduced by 10% this year. A portion of the CAMI grant funds is distributed to the STAR Center (abuse and evaluation center). The VOCA TCATT (Tri-County Anti-Trafficking Taskforce) Grant is a new grant funding a human trafficking advocate position.

SNAKE RIVER TRANSIT

Malheur Council on Aging & Community Services (MCOA&CS) Executive Director Sandy Shelton and Transportation Project Manager Brittany White discussed a funding request to help support public transportation services; funding requested is in the amount of \$15,000. Ms. Shelton gave a brief update of their agency: *I just wanted to take a moment to let you know how proud we are of MCOA and the progress that we've made, the endurance I guess, that we've shown this last year. There have been many challenges, but especially as we all know, we've all lived through it and experienced the pandemic and all those things, but for an industry like ours that is based on person to person communication, live communication, it has been especially difficult and many, many barriers have existed. We have definitely experienced a high degree of physical illness, mental uses with depression and anxiety, isolation with our seniors that are at home and have been more homebound than ever this year; not to mention the illness of COVID itself. Our agency is in a very stable place right now, we're moving forward, we're making really good progress, and we wouldn't have gotten to this point without the help and the support of several entities, and I want to name just a few: the Oregon Health Authority definitely has stepped up to help us; Malheur County, all of you, we're so very appreciative; the City of Ontario, definitely; Festival of Trees Committee – our major funder of donations; and of course our fearless Executive Board of Directors who have been there for us at every single turn in this basically kind of a twisted road. We appreciate all of you. However, because of the increasing need for meals, food boxes, and all types of food resources by our seniors in Malheur county, we've more than doubled the number of Meals on Wheels and food requests from all over the county, even as far as Harper and Jordan Valley. The demand keeps growing, which surprised me, certainly, but it's growing and growing.*

As you know state and federal funding is not going to keep up with that kind of demand, it's not really geared to do that. So, our fundraising efforts have to really be increasing and so what we're doing is we're engaging and fundraising, not just one time a year with Festival of Trees in November, but also with our new Adopt a Senior program, and that is a year-long fundraising effort, that involves potentially a small monthly or yearly donation that can provide all kinds of services to our seniors, or a senior, including nutrition services. So, our focus this year for our agency will be to inform our community members to create partnerships to provide the best quality care we can for our precious Malheur county seniors.

Ms. White explained that the \$15,000 Malheur county provides is utilized as match funds for federal transportation grants. Ms. White answered questions from the budget committee members.

ASSESSOR

Assessor Dave Ingram discussed Page 6 – Assessor and Page 67 – GIS (Geographical Information System) Maintenance Fund; and answered questions from the budget committee members. Department of Revenue has approved the County Assessment Function Funding Assessment (CAFFA) grant application.

INFORMATION SERVICES (IS) DEPARTMENT

IS Director Frank Goble discussed Page 3 – Information Services and Page 79 – IS Tech Fund; also present was IS Coordinator Josh Kreger. \$50,000 is budgeted for Office 365; this will not be used unless it is necessary to move to Office 365.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

SWCD Director Linda Rowe discussed a request to maintain financial support in the amount of \$10,000; also present were Gary Faw and Brett Cleaver. Funds for SWCD are appropriated from the Technical Assistance Line-item in the Economic Development budget. See instrument # 2021-1859 for the written request and other documents.

CLERK'S OFFICE

Clerk Gayle Trotter discussed Page 5 – County Clerk and Page 68 – Clerk Records Fund; and answered questions. Ms. Trotter explained that the City of Ontario believes there may be a City measure placed on the November 2021 ballot and as such additional election funds may be needed; there may also be a recall election for the City of Ontario. Consensus was to add \$4,600 to the Election Board line-item and \$1,300 to Ballot Printing/Coding. The Clerk Records Fund is for digitizing/archiving permanent records.

COURTHOUSE

Maintenance Supervisor Don Dalton discussed Page 16 – Courthouse. Capital Outlay project requests are: Recoat jail roof; replace emergency generator monitor; update juvenile wing fire alarm system; flooring, paint, moving costs, and possible asbestos removal costs in the Clerk's Office, and juvenile window. All are in the proposed budget except for the juvenile window project.

DOG CONTROL/ANI-CARE ANIMAL SHELTER

Ani-Care Animal Shelter's current monthly rate is \$3,083.33. The contract is for the maintenance, care and disposal according to law, of abandoned or stray canines located within the confines of Malheur County; not city limits.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Weed Inspector Gary Page discussed Page 36 – Weed Control. The Vector District and County Weed Control Department are going to sever their partnership. Mr. Page encouraged funding be included to hire seasonal staff for the Weed Control Department in order to provide continuity to the program as one person cannot keep up with all the projects. Ms. DuBois explained that the proposed budget is for one FTE (Full Time Equivalent) in the Weed Department. (Under the partnership agreement with the Vector District the position was split 50/50 between Weed Inspector and Vector District Manager.) The Small Equipment request is for a GPS (Global Positioning System) system for the sprayer.

TREASURER/TAX OFFICE

Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth discussed Page 8 – County Treasurer/Tax.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

The budget meeting resumed after lunch.

ONTARIO JUSTICE COURT

Judge Mahoney discussed Page 13 – Ontario Justice Court; Revenue was increased \$50,000 and Materials & Services expenses were decreased approximately \$1,000.

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, Office Manager Bobbi Howell, OSU Malheur Experiment State Director Stuart Reitz, OSU Extension Agent Barbara Brody, and Extension District Advisory Board Member Bob Komoto.

Page 35 – Extension Service. Extension Office operations are supported through a combination of County General Funds and Tax Service District funding. The County provides an Office Manager at the Extension Office; and \$8,000 in Materials & Services.

COUNTY COURT

Page 2 – County Court was reviewed; a PIO (Public Information Officer) position was proposed in this budget. (.90 FTE General Fund/.10 FTE Health Department).

COUNTY COUNSEL

Page 4 – County Counsel was reviewed.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Page 7 – Administrative Office was reviewed; the OA (Office Assistant) II position was moved to a full-time Clerk position beginning January 2022 in the proposed budget; the position will backup Accounts Payable and have additional HR (Human Resources)/payroll support duties

WATERMASTER

Page 34 – Watermaster was reviewed. The State Watermaster office is in the Courthouse; the budget is \$1,000.

LAW LIBRARY

Page 48 – Law Library was reviewed.

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 Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District. The budget is to support extension-oriented programs conducted by OSU Extension Service and OSU Experiment Station in Malheur County. Tax Service District funds are split between Extension Service and Experiment Station. The Experiment Station uses the funds primarily for personnel costs. The Extension Service uses the funds for personnel costs and operating expenses (materials and services).

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

SURVEYOR/ENGINEER

Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards reviewed Page 37 – County Surveyor and Page 45 – Surveyor Corner Preservation Fund. Mr. Edwards explained his department has been busy – there have been a lot of property line adjustments, partitions, and a couple of subdivisions. Mr. Edwards will follow-up with Ms. DuBois regarding funds to be transferred from the Corner Preservation Fund to the County Surveyor fund for work completed by Mr. Edwards in the current fiscal year.

POVERTY TO PROSPERITY (P2P)

Riley Hill requested financial support in the amount of \$10,000 to support the continued efforts of Poverty to Prosperity. Several welding students and CNA (Certified Nurse's Assistant) students obtained certifications this school year. Efforts are underway to organize a Tech Fair; funds to support the Tech Fair are needed – the City of Ontario and Ontario Chamber of Commerce have committed funds.

FAIRGROUNDS

Fairgrounds Manager Lynelle Christiani discussed Pages 54-55 – County Fair Fund. Grant funds were obtained to remodel the restrooms under the grandstands, move the water on the horse end from City to well, and purchase 36 new round tables. In 2021-2022 it is hoped to install the 5 new FFA (Future Farmers of America) gates (this project has been underway for almost two years), replace the white wooden fencing with a City of Ontario grant, hoping to obtain a Homeland Security grant to replace the PA (Public Address) system, and complete additional ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) work on the grandstands with the City grant.

The Fair Board requested Ms. Christiani extend their thanks for the Court's support and for relieving the Fair Board of the liability insurance costs in the 2021-2022 budget. The Fair Board requested the budget committee consider contributing \$30,000 from Economic Development funds as they had requested, rather than \$25,000 as is in the proposed budget. Repairs & Maintenance line-item includes the \$25,000 from the Economic Development fund plus \$10,000 from the Fair Fund. The Fair Board would also like to partner with the County on a Capital Improvement project; and there is a need for a replacement pickup for the Fairgrounds.

See instrument # 2021-1860 for the Fairgrounds complete Budget Message.

Consensus of the budget committee was to leave the Fair Fund as reflected in the proposed budget.

The budget committee proceeded to do a review of requested adjustments to be considered.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Page 38 – Economic Development Fund. SREDA (Snake River Economic Development Alliance) requested \$5,000; the budget committee approved \$2,000. Training and Employment Consortium (Burns office) requested \$12,500 to support the Oregon Youth Corps (OYC) program in Malheur County; consensus was to not fund the request. Consensus was to fund Poverty to Prosperity and SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation District) in the amount of \$10,000 (each). The transfers in this budget are: County Fair, Extension Service, Special Transportation Fund, Bookmobile, Reload/Industrial Park Project. The Technical Assistance line-item includes funding for SWCD, SREDA, and P2P.

NON-PROGRAM

Page 20 – Non-Program was reviewed. Funds were included to update and repair the sprinkler system at the Goodfellow building as well as installation of new exterior building and parking lot lighting. A new line-item for COVID Work was added. Predatory Animal Control includes funding for Wildlife Services.

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

Consensus was to leave the Juvenile Department budget as proposed; no changes were made.

GENERAL COUNTY CONTINGENCY

Page 19 – General County Contingency was approved in the amount of \$4,185,159.

APPROVALS

Judge Joyce moved to approve the budget for the Malheur County Ambulance Service District for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of \$330,100. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Judge Joyce moved to approve the budget for the Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of \$1,256,910. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Judge Joyce moved to approve property taxes for the 2021-2022 fiscal year at the rate of \$0.23 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operating purposes in the District Special Fund. Mr. Haidle seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Judge Joyce moved to approve the budget for Malheur County for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of \$40,529,271. Mr. Skinner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Judge Joyce moved to approve property taxes for the 2021-2022 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 unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.