

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
May 11, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Ron Jacobs present. Members of the media, public, and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, Courthouse bulletin board, 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 #2022-2471

MCDERMITT LITHIUM EXPLORATION PROJECT - JINDALEE RESOURCES

Meeting with the Court from Jindalee Resources were: Lindsay Dudfield, Chief Executive Officer; Brett Marsh, Vice President; and Paul Mayer, Senior Geologist. Also present in the meeting room for the session were: Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany, Planner Eric Evans, Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards, Tucker Freeman with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Dennis Cindell, Gary Wescott, and Barbara Westcott. Mr. Dudfield gave a power-point presentation on the McDermitt Lithium Exploration Project and answered various questions from the Court and those listening. See instrument # 2022-2484 for the complete power-point document.

HiTech Minerals Inc (HTM) is a 100% owned, US subsidiary of Jindalee Resources Limited. The project is near the Oregon-Nevada border. Access in Malheur County is 22 miles from McDermitt along the Disaster Peak Road. The exploration project is on federal ground. Lithium is a critical component in lithium ion (Li-ion) batteries. There is currently one operating lithium mine in the United States and it is in Silver Peak, Nevada and produces about 5,000 tons of Lithium Carbonate Equivalent (LCE). Surface sampling in early 2018 returned high levels of lithium; this was confirmed by drilling in 2018-2021. Exploration results indicate a viable and vital lithium resource requiring continued exploration under the General Mining Act on public lands administered by the BLM (Bureau of Land Management).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments from Henry Guinn were submitted electronically via Go-To Meeting as follows: Henry Guinn from Vancouver, Canada. This is not "federal land" this is stolen, occupied Paitue Indigenous lands whose "resources" we're talking about. Who are the environmental scientists and "cultural people"? Who ultimately decides whether this project is too risky? Especially because we have not mentioned the long-term impacts on the land of an open pit mine, including chemical leaching into ground water, destruction of habitat of antelope, grouse, and more, and the fact that lithium is not a "renewable resource" if we have to increase extraction to make a transition off ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicles. Too many contradictions, too little time. Instead of finding a quick solution to our climate emergency in lithium mining, let's make sure we are building relationships with Indigenous communities with Indigenous Rights at the center of the debate. That's all. Reject the exploration plan of operation!

ONTARIO SANITARY SERVICE - WASTE CONNECTIONS

Scott Wilson and Nate Wilson from Ontario Sanitary Service and Chris Welker, district manager for Waste Connections met with the Court. Also present was Environmental Health Director Craig Geddes and County Counsel Stephanie Williams. Scott Wilson explained he is retiring and selling the Ontario Sanitary Service business to Waste Connections. Waste Connections is a nationwide company but also a local company. A transfer of Ontario Sanitary Service's franchise agreement to Waste Connections is requested. Mr. Welker explained the name will remain Ontario Sanitary Service and the current employees will be retained. A franchise agreement with Waste Connections will be drafted for the Court's approval. The Court thanked Mr. Wilson for his years of service to the community and wished him well with his retirement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

City of Ontario Mayor Riley Hill requested to leave with the Court an East Idaho Avenue Traffic Impact Analysis Report and an economic study for the Ontario-Fruitland Second Bridge Crossing project. The City has applied for federal funding to complete critical planning activities for the project. Mr. Hill requested the Court members individually review the documents and said he would meet with them at a later date.

PROCLAMATION - EMS (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES) WEEK

ASD (Ambulance Service District) Director Bob Dickinson met with the Court and presented a proclamation for EMS Week.

PROCLAMATION In Support of “EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK”

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in hundreds of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Malheur County Court, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 15-21, 2022, as

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

With the EMS Strong theme, EMS WEEK: Rising to the Challenge, We, Dan Joyce, County Judge, Don Hodge, County Commissioner, and Ron Jacobs, County Commissioner, encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to declare the week of May 15-21, 2022 as Emergency Medical Services Week. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CROSSING PERMIT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Crossing Permit #23-22 to Fatbeam to place fiber optic route feed for the school district along various roads in the Nyssa Road District #2. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of May 4, 2022 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - CORDER

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Temporary Employment Agreement Dispatcher - Malheur County Sheriff's Office with Ashley Corder. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement expires December 31, 2022. See instrument #2022-2474

EXTENSION OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - WEIR

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Extension of Temporary Employment Agreement to Perform Duties of a Dispatcher (Excluding 911) - Malheur County Sheriff's Office Recorded with the Malheur County Clerk's Office as Instrument Number #2021-5512 with Melody Weir. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement is extended to May 31, 2022. See instrument # 2022-2475

CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Accounts Payable Register for April 2022. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

WILDLIFE SERVICES WORK AND FINANCIAL PLAN

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve USDA APHIS (United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services) Wildlife Services Work and Financial Plan, Cooperative Agreement No.: 22-7341-5124-RA. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Work and Financial Plan define the objectives, plan of action, resources and budget for the cooperative wildlife services program in Malheur County for fiscal year 2022/2023. A copy will be returned for recording.

CONTRACT TO SELL - VALDEZ

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Contract to Sell/Installment Agreement Pursuant to ORS 275.190 with Rosa Zambrano Valdez for Ref. #634 purchased at the recent County Land Sale. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #2022-2473

AGREEMENT- GOLDTHORPE

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Agreement between Malheur County Court and Malheur County District Attorney for Additional and Temporary Services within the Malheur County Juvenile Department. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2022-2472

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.