

## **MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**

**May 15, 2019**

County Court met with Commissioner Don Hodge presiding and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Juvenile Department Director Susan Gregory.

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

The Court signed a letter of support for the City of Ontario's Recreation Trails Program grant application for the Treasure Valley Connector Trail. The Treasure Valley Connector Trail will be Ontario's first bike pedestrian trail and is consistent with County Priorities identified in the 2019-2023 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). See instrument #[2019-1864](#)

### **CROSSING PERMIT**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Crossing Permit No. 14-19 to Oregon-Idaho Utilities for installation of cable on Yturri Blvd #809. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

### **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Hodge noted that he attended the recent Safety Committee Meeting. Concern was noted with the condition of a storage building at the Road Department; Commissioner Hodge has since discussed the concern with Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany. It was also noted that the Safety Committee is statutorily required and participation by all offices/departments is encouraged.

County Counsel Stephanie Williams joined the meeting.

### **UPDATE - BUIDLING PROGRAM**

Ms. Williams updated the Court on the progress of transitioning the building program to an internalized County building program/department. The A-Level Structural Inspector position has been advertised for three weeks now; interviews are scheduled with two applicants. A permit technician/clerk County employee position has not been advertised yet; and a current City/County Inspections Services (CCIS) staff person will remain as a County employee and fill an office manager type position and possibly building official duties. The State was contacted about possibly contracting with them for plumbing and electrical inspectors. The State indicated they have a shortage of inspectors and that they are not willing to provide a partial program; the State will only provide the full building program. Ms. Williams has contacted other jurisdictions regarding plumbing and electrical inspectors but so far has not found anyone willing to contract for the services; she is still pursuing a couple other possibilities. There is concern that the County may not be able to provide a full building program by July 1. It was noted that it currently takes 12 weeks for a Plan Review in Grant County. CCIS has actively been recruiting for inspectors for the past five years.

### **MANAGEMENT/NON-REPRESENTED SALARY ADJUSTMENT**

Ms. Williams explained that an agreement was reached with AFSCME for a 3.25% salary increase effective July 1, 2019; and 2020-2022 it will be a 1-3% increase. The Sheriff's Union is 1.6% for July 1, 2019. The proposed 2019-2020 budget included a 1.6% cost-of-living adjustment for management with a note that AFSCME covered positions, and possibly management, would be updated according to the outcome of mediation. The Court was asked to determine the salary adjustment for management/non-represented for fiscal year 2019/2020. The matter will be placed on the agenda next week.

### **CONTRACT WITH GREG SMITH**

Ms. Williams explained that confirmation was received from Greg Smith that he wishes to continue his contract with the County for another year for economic development services; no changes were requested to the contract and the financial consideration will remain the same at \$9,000 per month.

Additionally, Mr. Smith was agreeable to continuing the addendum to the contract for additional services in connection to the Malheur County Development Corporation (MCDC) and the Treasure Valley Reload Center (TVRC) at the rate of \$6,000 per month. Mr. Smith will continue to be an Officer, non-voting board member for MCDC and Project Manager for TVRC; make oral and written presentations on TVRC; and provide technical and grant writing associated with the TVRC project and other projects as needed. The additional services under the addendum may be provided by Mr. Smith and other personnel as contracted/employed/or hired by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith also suggested the Court consider setting aside in the budget a line-item for operational expenses for MCDC for third party professional services such as legal advertisements, accounting/bookkeeping fees, interest expenses, printing, etc. Ms. Williams asked the Court to inform her of any changes or modifications to the terms of the contract they would like made.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Hodge adjourned the meeting.