

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

May 20, 2020

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 Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards. Various members of the public, media and staff were present at various times of the meeting electronically. Notice of the meeting was posted 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 [#2020-1778](#)

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of May 13, 2020 as written. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed. (Judge Joyce was not present on May 13, 2020.)

SUBAGREEMENT WITH MCOA&CS

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Sub-Agreement with Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services (MCOA&CS) for CARES 5311 Operating Funds (*Relief from expenses incurred in response to COVID-19 pandemic*) Pursuant to State Agreement Number 34237. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

FEDERAL FUNDING CERTIFICATION

Commissioner Hodge moved to authorize Judge Joyce to sign the Federal Funding Certification to request payment from the State of Oregon from the allocation of the Coronavirus Relief Fund as created in section 5001 of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) for reimbursement of expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The request is due May 22, 2020. Approximately \$100,000 of COVID-19 related expenses have been incurred during the time-period of March 1 - May 15, 2020.

ROAD ACCEPTANCE

Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards presented a road dedication on a partition plat. Commissioner Wilson moved to accept road dedication of a portion of Desert Glen Road and a portion of Stateline Road on Harold and Debbie Bruning's Partition Plat # 20-09. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument [#2020-1796](#)

POVERTY TO PROSPERITY (P2P) REQUEST

The Court discussed the request from Poverty to Prosperity to contribute \$40,000 to support a county-wide COVID-19 recovery response development program/position; Ontario City Manager Adam Brown participated in the discussion and answered various questions. The City of Ontario approved financial support in the amount of \$30,000 to go towards a coordinated effort to seek funding and legislative remedies for recovering the community. The economic recovery team/committee includes the Small Business Development Center (Andrea Testi and Michael

Braden); Poverty to Prosperity (Ken Hart, Bill Johnson, and Riley Hill); City of Ontario staff (Dan Cummings, Adam Brown, and Peter Paul); Kit Kamo from Snake River Economic Development Alliance (SREDA); and Malheur County Economic Development contractor Greg Smith has been invited to the meetings but not in attendance at most. Merchant McIntyre Associates was recently interviewed; they are a grant writing firm with a long-term presence in Washington DC and are already working with Oregon entities in obtaining federal COVID-19 stimulus dollars. Their normal retainer is \$7,500 a month but has offered their services for this project for \$6,500 a month (\$78,000 a year); there is also a 90-day audition period and the agreement can terminate after 90 days if it doesn't appear that it is going to be beneficial to continue the services of Merchant McIntyre. Poverty to Prosperity is willing to contribute at least \$15,000; and Bill Johnson has said he would be willing to ask Border Board to contribute funds. It is hoped that the County Court will contribute funds - either now, or during the three-month audition period. Commissioner Hodge stated he wanted to sit down and discuss the matter with Mr. Brown before deciding. Commissioner Wilson questioned why a member of the Court was not asked to participate on the committee and explained that he would rather contribute funding to things that would have direct effect for businesses and individuals county-wide, not just Ontario (as referenced in the May 5, 2020 correspondence from Mr. Brown; *Question 7. What "milestones" will be achieved? The primary objective is to bring money back to Ontario...*) Mr. Brown explained that was not the intent but understood how it could be interpreted that way. Mr. Brown requested the Court send their "wish list" to him and it would be shared with Merchant McIntyre to assist with development of their plan to pursue grants to benefit the entire community.

Additionally, the Ontario City Council has asked for a resolution to waive utility bills (water/sewer) for businesses that were closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. A micro-loan program is also available and an application for a State matching fund program was submitted by the City.

Consensus of the Court was that \$30,000 (same amount allocated by City of Ontario) could be appropriated from the Economic Development Technical Assistance line-item if the Court chose to contribute funds to the project at a later date.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned