

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
May 26, 2021

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Commissioner Ron Jacobs at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse with Commissioner Don Hodge present. Judge Dan Joyce was absent. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois. Members of the media, public, and staff were present electronically. 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 # 2021-2580

ROAD DEPARTMENT - EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany met with the Court and discussed the need to replace snowplows. Mr. Tiffany explained that he is working to develop a schedule for replacing equipment; some equipment is in dire need of replacement. Mr. Tiffany is using the procurement system Sourcewell and considering purchasing a Peterbilt truck; total purchase price of the complete unit is \$242,048 (a savings of approximately \$87,000 by using Sourcewell). Mr. Tiffany proposed putting \$50,000 cash down and financing the remainder. Consensus of the Court was for Mr. Tiffany to work with Ms. DuBois on the purchase; Commissioner Hodge will coordinate the financing component.

CROSSING PERMIT

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Crossing Permit #21-21 for Probst Electric to replace two Idaho Power poles on the south side of Park Avenue #768; a lane of traffic will be used for equipment while replacing the poles. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

CONTRACT - ANI-CARE

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Contract with Ani-Care Animal Shelter, Inc. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed. Ani-Care will accept delivery, custody, and responsibility of care and disposition for abandoned or stray canines located within the confines of Malheur County (not city limits); Ani-Care is not responsible for the initial capture and transportation of the abandoned or stray canines. Financial consideration is \$3083.33 per month; the contract expires June 30, 2022. See instrument #2021-2581

FACE COVERINGS POLICY FOR FULLY VACCINATED EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS WITHIN COUNTY BUILDINGS

Ms. Williams explained to the Court the draft face coverings policy she had prepared at the Court's request. Under the new CDC guidelines there are some circumstances vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a face covering. The State of Oregon also came out with rules that said under certain circumstances, fully vaccinated employees and visitors in public buildings no longer have to wear face coverings. In order to permit fully vaccinated individuals to go without a face covering, businesses/employers must have a policy for requesting and checking for proof of vaccination and request and review proof of vaccination of individuals who wish to go without a

face covering. The draft policy was shared with department heads/elected officials and a brief meeting was held. There is a difference of opinion within the courthouse regarding face coverings for employees and visitors. There is not a person at the entrance to the courthouse to review proof of vaccination of individuals entering the courthouse. (In other County buildings such as the Sheriff's Office, Health Department, Building Department, Goodfellow building, Community Corrections, Justice Court there is a person available upon entry.) The draft policy provides that County employees who do not want to wear a face covering may voluntarily show proof of their vaccination status with their department head/elected official and it is reviewed. Visitors to standalone County buildings can also have the face covering exemption if they voluntarily show proof of their vaccination status to the supervisor or department head/elected official and it was reviewed. In the courthouse visitors would be required to wear face coverings in the common areas; when fully within a particular office or department and the visitor wishes to voluntarily show proof of vaccination status to the department head/elected official or supervisor and such proof of vaccination status is reviewed then the visitor may go without a face covering while in that office/department. The majority of department heads/elected officials within the courthouse want visitors to wear face coverings at all times. State offices are not checking vaccination status at this time and all employees and visitors must wear face coverings regardless of vaccination status. Various department heads and elected officials shared their thoughts on the policy with the Court members. After discussion the Court tabled the matter until Judge Joyce's return.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of May 19, 2021 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jacobs adjourned the meeting.