

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
June 14, 2017

County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois. Also present was John Braese of the Malheur Enterprise.

JUSTICE COURT - VACANCY

Justice of the Peace Marji Mahony met with the Court telephonically. Judge Mahony explained that a current employee was selected to fill the Office Manager vacancy and as a result there is now an Office Assistant (OA) II vacancy. Judge Mahony requested authorization to advertise/hire for the vacant OA II position. The job description will be reviewed and updated as necessary. By consensus, the Court authorized Judge Mahony to proceed with the advertising/hiring process.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Court Minutes of June 7, 2017 as written. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION - BUDGET TRANSFER

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Resolution No. R17-25: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.463. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funds being transferred are in connection with the recent Fire Alarm System project. See instrument # [2017-2345](#)

PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF EXTENSION TAX DISTRICT BUDGET

The Court met as the governing body of the Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District. Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution R17-17 adopting the Extension tax district budget; notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer. No public comments were received. Judge Joyce closed the hearing. Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution R17-17: In the Matter of the Adoption of a Budget and Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2017/18 as Required by ORS 294.456. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Total Appropriation is \$768,144; and the tax rate is \$0.23 per \$1,000 of assessed value. See instrument # [2017-2346](#)

PUBLIC HEARING - AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT (ASD) BUDGET

The Court met as the governing body of the Ambulance Service District. Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution R17-18 adopting the Ambulance Service District budget; notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer. No public comments were received. Judge Joyce closed the hearing. Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution R17-18: In the Matter of the Adoption of a Budget and Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 as Required by ORS 294.456. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Total Appropriation is \$478,950. See instrument # [2017-2347](#)

SUB-AGREEMENT WITH MCOA&CS

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Sub-Agreement with Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services (MCOA&CS) for General Public Transit Service Pursuant to State Agreement Number 31926, 5311-Capital, Operating, Planning. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The sub-agreement expires June 30, 2019. See instrument # [2017-2349](#)

PUBLIC HEARING - COUNTY BUDGET

Judge Joyce opened the public hearing for consideration of Resolution R17-19 adopting the County budget; notice of the hearing was published in the Argus Observer. No public comments were received. Judge Joyce closed the hearing. Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution R17-19: In the Matter of the Adoption of a Budget and Levy of Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2017/18 as Required by ORS 294.456. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The total sum of the budget for the 2017/18 fiscal year is \$28,022,890; and the tax rate is \$2.5823 per \$1,000 of assessed value. See instrument # [2017-2348](#)

ODOT AGREEMENT #31431

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Rail and Public Transit Division Oregon Department of Transportation Agreement No. 31431, Capital 5310, Capital STATE. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funding shall not exceed \$116,649 and is for the purchase of 2 transit vehicles. A copy will be returned for recording. See Instrument #2017-2370

SUB-AGREEMENT WITH MCOA&CS

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Sub-Agreement with Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services (MCOA&CS) for General Public Transit Service Pursuant to State Agreement Number 31431, Capital-5310. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The sub-agreement expires June 30, 2018. See instrument # [2017-2350](#)

CROSSING PERMIT

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Crossing Permit #29-17 to Vale Oregon Irrigation District (VOID) for installation of pipe on Little Valley Road #698. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

IGA WITH OSU - FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Oregon State University's Extension Service (OSU). Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement authorizes one County employee to have access to security classes or data determined by OSU to be necessary to complete financial transactions in OSU's Banner FIS, OSCAR and TRES/TEM systems, or such other systems as OSU may use in the future. A copy of the IGA will be returned for recording.

AMENDMENT TO IGA #147907 - DEPENDENCY PROGRAM

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Amendment Number 01 to State of Oregon Intergovernmental Agreement Number 147907 through its Department of Human Services for

the Juvenile Dependency program. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The amendment extends the agreement to June 30, 2018 and increases the allowable reimbursable funding to \$43,001. The quarterly supervision payment to the District Attorney is paid from this agreement. A copy of the amendment will be returned for recording. See Instrument #2017-2460

HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Wilson moved to appoint Elijah Luna to the Housing Authority of Malheur and Harney County (HAMHC) board as a Tenant Commissioner. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ONTARIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ontario Area Chamber of Commerce President John Breidenbach met with the Court and updated them on local tourism efforts to market Malheur County. The Chamber has placed 4 ads in a national outdoor hunting/fishing magazine called Outdoor Adventures in the last 1 1/2 years and is getting results; the ad features fishing at the Owyhee River. The 2017 Eastern Oregon Visitor Guide is out and copies were left for distribution at the Courthouse. Mr. Briedenbach attended an Outdoor Recreation class at the Governor's Conference on Tourism; the class had a panel of three people - an executive from REI, an executive from Travel Oregon, and a person from Southern Oregon who spoke about trails types of things being done in Southern Oregon. The REI executive spoke about the number of millions of dollars that outdoor recreation brings to Oregon; hunting and fishing numbers were not specified. "Graveling" was discussed in the class; Graveling is a new trendy outdoor recreation and is mountain biking (with wider tires) on gravel roads. Graveling may be a huge opportunity for Malheur County; a working group is forming to explore the feasibility of possibly putting some of these Graveling paths together in areas of the county; grants could then be applied for to further the endeavor. An Agritourism working group is also meeting; Agritourism can include farm trails and farm markets and those types of things, including pheasant farms (pheasants and chucker are popular with hunting enthusiasts). Mr. Breidenbach will continue to work on outdoor recreation opportunities; hunting, fishing, and shooting will be included; he will also visit with Economic Development Director Greg Smith. Additionally, the upcoming Eclipse is very popular and the Chamber receives numerous calls about it daily; callers requesting information for events in the County's jurisdiction are being referred to the Environmental Health Department.

Mr. Braese left the meeting.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFFING VACANCIES

Health Department Director Angie Gerrard and Nursing Supervisor Rebecca Stricker met with the Court to discuss current staff vacancies within the department. An offer was extended to the Registered Dietician regarding the WIC Coordinator vacancy and the Court is awaiting a response to the offer. An Accounting Specialist (Biller) position has been vacant since April; and an RN position that was the Coordinator for both the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program has been vacant since May.

The Accounting Specialist (Biller) was extensively discussed. It was discussed if perhaps the billing responsibilities should be contracted out to a billing agency. Commissioner Hodge suggested ESD be contacted to see how they do their billing. Ms. Gerrard explained the important working partnership between the Biller and the nurses that ensure services are coded and billed properly. (The charting records and the coding are cross-checked.) The Biller also follows up on denied claims to ensure eligible claims are collected on. It was also discussed that there are two Accounting Specialist positions at the Health Department, however, only one position is the Biller; the other position is responsible for accounts payable/receivable, vital records registrar, and other duties. Commissioner Wilson suggested Malheur Memorial be contacted regarding their billing process.

The other vacant position is a nurse position who was the Coordinator for the Public Health Preparedness Program and the Tobacco Education Prevention Program (TPEP). Ms. Gerrard explained that these two programs do not require the coordinator to be a RN. Ms. Gerrard proposed to hire two health specialists, rather than one nurse, to coordinate each program individually; the health specialists could be either 1.0 or 0.8 FTE each. Having a health specialist for each program would advance the programs beyond the required minimum and more fully utilize the funding allotted from the State for the work. The salaries for two health specialist would be comparable to the salary of one RN; however, with two employees there would be an increased cost of benefit packages. (Ms. Gerrard did explain that she understands that her request may not be granted but as an advocate for the health of the community she needs to make the request.) TPEP and Public Health Preparedness are not direct client service programs; Public Health Preparedness is responsible for ensuring that in the event of a public health emergency the necessary response and network is in place (including MOU's, training drills, protocols, etc.).

Ms. Gerrard also gave a couple of "outside the box" ideas that would need further consideration: consolidate all clinical programs to one entrance of the facility and as a result reduce one OAI staff member. The salary cost of the reduced OAI position could then be used to help support the hiring of two health specialist for the two discussed programs. The other option would be to combine the Environmental Health Department and the Health Department (as is currently done in many counties). There would be one department director and office staff and facility costs could be shared.

Judge Joyce proposed contracting out the services of the Health Department to another agency similar to what Grant County currently does. Ms. Gerrard noted that the state would need to be involved in this process and offered to contact them.

Ms. Gerrard will follow-up with an email recapping today's discussion; and include bullet points per Judge Joyce's request.

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

Juvenile Department Director Susan Gregory met with the Court and presented an IGA for their consideration. Commissioner Hodge moved to approve State of Oregon Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic Services with Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), Agreement #13794. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed

unanimously. Funding is in the amount of \$89,233 for the biennium; the agreement expires June 30, 2019. Funding is used for competency development, community service work program, detention, and GPS monitoring; the Flex Fund is used for individual items such as assessments, treatment, medical services, mediation, transportation, UA's, educational needs, positive extracurricular activities, and services of Douglas County's shelter for stabilization and evaluation. A copy will be returned for recording.

Ms. Gregory requested authorization to advertise/hire for an Office Manager/Detention Manager position due to retirement. By consensus, the Court authorized Ms. Gregory to proceed with filling the vacancy. The job description will be reviewed and updated as needed and the position will be posted in-house (Malheur County staff only).

COURT ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Clerk's Note

Study of Rail Assets and Industrial Land Supply in Malheur County. Prepared for: Malheur County and the cities of Nyssa, Ontario and Vale. Prepared by: Claudia L Howells, Transportation Consultant, Salem, Oregon 2006. See Instrument #[2017-2403](#) (See 10/04/2006 for Proposed discussion. See 07/25/2007 for Abandonment discussion.)