

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
JULY 26, 2017

County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was County Counsel Stephanie Williams and Veterans Service Officer Connie Tanaka.

Also present was John Braese of the Malheur Enterprise.

PUBLIC HEARING - EXPEDITED REDEMPTION AND FORECLOSURE HEARING

Judge Joyce opened the public hearing to determine if the property at 122 Main Street South, Vale, (Ref #4812, Assessor Map 184529BA, Tax Lot 900) was subject to waste and abandonment and if the redemption period should be expedited and foreclosed upon in accordance with ORS and Malheur County Code. Present for the hearing was Vale City Manager Lynn Findley. Ms. Williams explained that notice of the hearing was sent to the owner of the property, Wyman Investors Inc., and other interested parties (City of Vale, Wells Fargo Bank, and Margaret Stallknecht) as identified in a title search. Cleo Wyman is deceased and Wyman Investors Inc. in an inactive Oregon corporation. The building on the property is collapsed, vacant and has no utilities and is subject to waste in accordance with ORS and Malheur County Code. The redemption period should be reduced to 30 days and if the property is not redeemed within 30 days the County's Tax Collector will execute a Tax Foreclosure Deed conveying the property to the County. No public comments were received. Judge Joyce closed the hearing. Commissioner Wilson moved to declare the property subject to waste and order the Tax Collector to issue a deed to the County if the property is not redeemed within 30 days; and sign Order No. GO-06-17. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2017-2944](#)

Mr. Findley noted that the City of Vale will continue to pay the cost of the fencing surrounding the property until the Sheriff's sale.

Mr. Braese left the meeting.

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE

Veterans' Service Officer Connie Tanaka met with the Court. Mr. Tanaka explained that due to the passage of Measure 96 last November 1.5% of net lottery revenues will be dedicated to veterans causes and the funds will be administered through Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. County veteran service offices will receive an increase in pass-through funding to support the work of the veteran service officers; Malheur County's pass-through funding will essentially double. Funding for FY 2017-18 will be \$84,421. Mr. Tanaka explained that he believes the best use of these additional funds would be to hire a part-time assistant veterans' service officer (22.5 hours per week). This person would go through the same training as Mr. Tanaka and become accredited to process claims. In order to be accredited as a veterans' service officer a person must be employed 1000 hours per year.

County Administrator Lorinda DuBois joined the meeting.

Mr. Tanaka is currently drafting a job description for the position and it will require Malheur County residency and possibly a bachelors degree. Mr. Tanaka and Ms. DuBois have concurred on the funding and hours for the position.

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve the part-time position as proposed by Mr. Tanaka. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tanaka also inquired if it would be possible for him to use the County owned snow blower to assist veterans and their families with snow removal if needed this next winter. Staff will explore the request and Mr. Tanaka will follow-up with Ms. DuBois and Ms. Williams.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of July 12, 2017 as written. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Resolution R17-28: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.471. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The supplemental budget allocates funds from the Criminal Justice Commission that were received but not anticipated when the adopted budget was prepared; the funds are to be used to pay for lodging for the NIC Pretrial training. See instrument # [2017-2945](#)

EOCA DUES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve payment of EOCA (Eastern Oregon Counties Alliance) Dues for Fiscal Year 2017-18 in the amount of \$14,200. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PROJECT DOVE DEED RESTRICTION RELEASE

Ms. Williams explained that Project Dove is requesting the County release its interest and restrictions for the property at 452 NW 1st Street, Ontario (site of previous domestic violence shelter obtained through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the 1990's). Project Dove now has a new location and desires to sell the old property; proceeds from the sale will be reinvested into the domestic violence program. The Court had no objections to releasing the County's deed restriction. Ms. Williams will draft a Quitclaim Deed.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - DELONG

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Malheur County Clerk Staff - employment of PERS retiree Employment Agreement with Deborah DeLong. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. DeLong will work as needed to assist the office when the County Clerk is absent, to assist with election matters, to provide training, or when current staffing is short-handed. The agreement expires December 31, 2017 and the hours worked will not exceed 250. See instrument # [2017-2946](#)

JUVENILE OFFICE VACANCY

The Court authorized the advertising/hiring of a Juvenile Clerk position. The position is currently vacant as the previous Clerk has filled the vacant Office Manager position.

COURTHOUSE KEY FOBs

Ms. DuBois explained that there has been a request that staff who work outside of the courthouse be given an employee key fob to access the courthouse. The Court Security Deputy recommends that only employees within the courthouse have a key fob. Staff can enter the courthouse via the front door during open hours. Consensus of the Court was not to provide the key fobs to employees who do not work in the courthouse.

ANI-CARE ANIMAL SHELTER CONTRACT

The Court discussed the contract with Ani-Care Animal Shelter. Ani-Care has agreed to a one-year contract at a monthly rate of \$2404; Ani-Care will meet with the Budget Board in 2018 to review the compensation. Concerns were expressed that the County contract cannot be expected to fully support the operations of the shelter and the financial burden of not euthanizing. Commissioner Wilson moved to sign the Contract with Ani-Care Animal Shelter Inc. for one year; the contract expires June 30, 2018 and the monthly compensation amount of \$2404 commences August 2017. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The contract will be sent to Ani-Care for their signature.

ENTERPRISE ZONE APPLICATION - SNAKE RIVER PRODUCE

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution R17-29: A Resolution Approving the Enterprise Zone Application for a Five Year Tax Exemption on New Investments for Snake River Produce Company, LLC. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The City of Nyssa has also approved the requested tax abatement subject to an additional agreement between the City and Snake River Produce. See instrument #[2017-2947](#)

BUDGET TRANSFER

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Resolution R17-30: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.463. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funds transferred are within the Mental Health Fund as the state has moved monies from the Alcohol & Drug Allotment to the Local Admin Allotment. See instrument #[2017-2948](#)

CROSSING PERMIT

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Crossing Permit #33-17 for Idaho Power Company to upgrade a transformer bank on an existing pole on Airport Road #1100. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.