

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

July 31, 2019

County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planner Eric Evans met with the Court; also present was Management Assistant Tatiana Burgess. Mr. Evans provided his eleventh monthly report to the Court as the Court has required.

PROCLAMATION - STEPPING UP

Crystal Copenhaver met with the Court and discussed the Stepping Up Initiative. Ms. Copenhaver is employed by Lifeways and is a Forensic Social Worker with the Malheur County Jail Diversion program. The Stepping Up Initiative is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. Undersheriff Travis Johnson also joined the session. Those with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail than people without mental illnesses or substance abuse issues; costs to house these individuals in county jails range from approximately \$100 to \$160 per day per bed. Additionally, the recidivism rate is higher for those with mental illnesses compared to those without these disorders. The Court was supportive of the national initiative; Undersheriff Johnson noted that Sheriff Wolfe was also supportive of the initiative. Ms. Copenhaver read the proclamation:

Before the County Court of Malheur County, Oregon Proclamation

“Stepping Up to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails”

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year;

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general public;

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders;

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and, upon release, are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders;

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs;

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families;

WHEREAS, Malheur and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways;

WHEREAS, Malheur County already has a Jail Diversion program encompassing a Forensic Social Worker, Forensic Case Manager, and Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor within the jail and Community Corrections, Mobile Crisis services, and Crisis Intervention Team trainings to continue and accelerate the positive forward drive toward solutions; and

WHEREAS, through Stepping Up, the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT, the Malheur County Court does hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through Stepping Up to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails;
- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels;
- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community;
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers;
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan; and
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

The Court signed the proclamation.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of July 24, 2019 as written.

Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

FUND TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution No. R19-18: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.463. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the

motion passed unanimously. The resolution accounts for end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year necessary budget transfers. See instrument # [2019-2812](#)

FUND TRANSFER RESOLUTION - EXTENSION SERVICE DISTRICT

Acting as the governing body of the Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District, Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution No. R19-19: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.463. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The resolution accounts for end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year necessary budget transfers. See instrument #[2019-2815](#)

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION - IGA

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve State of Oregon Intergovernmental Agreement Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Basic Services Agreement #14286 with Oregon Youth Authority. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funding for the 2019-2021 biennium shall not exceed \$91,094.00. A copy of the IGA will be returned for recording.

CROSSING PERMIT

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Crossing Permit #21-19 to Idaho Power Company to replace a pole and upgrade a transformer on 10th Avenue W #593. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.