

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

AUGUST 3, 2016

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

Also present was Larry Meyer of the Argus Observer.

ST. ALPHONSUS MEDICAL CENTER UPDATE

Ken Hart from St. Alphonsus Medical Center - Ontario met with the Court. Mr. Hart explained that St. Alphonsus Medical Center's focus had changed from traditional "sick care" to more proactive "well care". Sick care is what hospitals provide; the well care approach has led to a number of investments allowing St. Alphonsus to provide different kinds of care. New services include the Fruitland Health Care Plaza (outpatient family physicians/urgent care), and the renovation of the Park Center mall which is now the Ontario Health Care Plaza and includes a rehabilitation center. Those two projects account for over \$20 million in investment by St. Alponsus and promote well care and preventative health care rather than just sick care.

Additionally, a \$5 million renovation of the hospital's maternity center is nearing completion. Last year there were 600 births at the hospital with only one OBGYN (Obstetrics and Gynecology) provider. An additional OBGYN has recently been hired and will begin to provide services in September.

There are concerns about the Legislature's discussions regarding nonprofits property tax exemptions. Mr. Hart clarified that not all of St. Aphonsus property is exempt; last year it paid approximately \$62,000 in property taxes on its medical office building and the Ontario Health Plaza. The hospital proper tends to be where the charity care and more of the not for profit aspect of health care is provided and has historically been exempt from property taxes.

St. Alphonsus held its annual free sports physicals for local youth last week; 162 persons attended. For the last 2 years St. Alphonsus has been providing free athletic trainer services to local high school varsity sports events.

The Health Resource Center focuses on high utilizers of the emergency room; it is grant funded with matching support dollars from the hospital. The project combines a mental health component with the health care component; it assists patients with chronic illnesses and mental health needs to find appropriate health resources. Results of the project are positive with a decrease in re-admission rates of approximately 25%.

Treasure Valley Women's Clinic is now a part of St. Alphonsus and any woman in the community who is pregnant and needs health services free of charge is provided those services through the Women's Clinc. St. Alphonsus is also involved with Poverty to Prosperity and the Allied Health Program; a recent Vale graduate of the Allied Health Program is now employed at St. Alphonsus.

Mr. Hart also briefly explained about the payer mix of users of the Ontario hospital. In 2012 9% were Self Pay; 28% were Commercial; 16% Medicaid; and 47% Medicare. In 2016 5% were Self Pay; 22% Commercial; 27% Medicaid; and 46% Medicare. Growth in government payers of total revenue rose from 63% to 73% in 4 years. Medicare reimbursement is 40%; Medicaid 46%; Self Pay 60%; and Commercial 79%. In 2012 \$1,000 in charges resulted in a payment of \$537; in 2016 \$1,000 in charges resulted in a payment of \$512 (a 5% decrease).

St. Alphonsus Medical Center - Ontario is a community hospital providing care for over 105 years. In addition to a variety of standard services, St. Alphonsus in Ontario also offers a number of specialty services. St. Alphonsus is a member of Trinity Health - one of the largest multi-institutional healthcare delivery systems in the nation. St. Alphonsus works with local employers and their health care insurer to build customized wellness programs to address employees' health needs and the company's wellness goals.

Mr. Hart answered questions from the Court; and the Court thanked Mr. Hart for his presentation.

ORDER DESIGNATING NEWSPAPER

Treasurer Jennifer Forsyth met with the Court regarding designating a newspaper for publication of the 2016 tax foreclosure list. Ms. Forsyth requested the Argus Observer be designated. Commissioner Hodge moved to authorize the publication of the 2016 tax foreclosure list in the Argus Observer as requested by Ms. Forsyth. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Order No. GO-06-16 In the Matter of the Designation of a Newspaper for the Publication of the 2016 Malheur County Tax Foreclosure List. See instrument #[2016-2615](#)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called in accordance with ORS (Oregon Revised Statute) 192.660(2)(h) - Legal Counsel with Judge Dan Joyce presiding and Commissioner Hodge and Commissioner Wilson present. Also present were County Counsel Stephanie Williams, Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, and Larry Meyer of the Argus Observer. No decisions were made during or following the session.

Ms. Williams left the meeting.

FUND TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Resolution No. R16-23: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.463. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The resolution accounts for end of the 2015-2016 fiscal year necessary budget transfers. See instrument #[2016-2616](#)

County Court was closed and the Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District session was opened.

FUND TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution R16-24: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.463. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The resolution transfers funds from Payroll Costs to Liability Insurance for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. See instrument #[2016-2617](#)

The Extension District session was closed and the Ambulance Service District (ASD) session was opened.

FUND TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Resolution R16-25: In the Matter of Fund Transfers Under Local Budget Law ORS 294.463. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The resolution transfers funds from Office Supplies to ASD Coordinator for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. See instrument #[2016-2618](#)

The ASD session was closed and County Court was reopened.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Court Minutes of July 27, 2016 as written. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CROSSING PERMITS

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Crossing Permit #20-16 to Idaho Power to upgrade an overhead transformer and install new service on Syringa Road #1106; and Crossing Permit #21-16 to Fruitland Electric to trench across Hale Road #951 for conduit. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Original permits will be kept on file at the Road Department.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the Court meeting.