

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
August 14, 2024

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office with Commissioner Ron Jacobs and Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. Staff present in the meeting room were Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Economic and Community Development Director Taylor Rembowski. 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 # 2024-2285

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Teri Brown, Vocational Rehabilitation Workforce and Business Coordinator met with the Court and provided an overview of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and answered questions from the Court members. Vocational Rehabilitation is a state and federally funded program that serves Oregonians with disabilities by helping them obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment. The program has a dual client model serving job seekers and businesses. Ms. Brown serves thirteen counties, is based in Union county, and works with various community partners. Vocational Rehabilitation is a resource for Oregon businesses and provides disability awareness training and assistance with 503 compliance, and connection to qualified job seekers if appropriate. Vocational Rehabilitation also serves youth with disabilities and works closely with the Oregon Education Department and schools to make sure that transition age youths have pre-employment transition services so that they know what employability is. Vocational Rehabilitation can assist with the cost of training and equipment for clients in some cases.

ORDER DESIGNATING NEWSPAPER

Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth met with the Court; Ms. Forsyth requested the Argus Observer be designated as the newspaper for publication of the 2024 tax foreclosure list. Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Order No. GO-06-24: In the Matter of the Designation of a Newspaper for the Publication of the 2024 Malheur County Tax Foreclosure List. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #2024-2286

GOODFELLOW REMODEL PROJECT - CHANGE ORDER

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve a change order for the Goodfellow remodel project in the amount of \$20,700. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CROSSING PERMIT

The Court did not authorize Crossing Permit #67-24 to Juan M. Castillo to dig an exploratory hole to locate a culvert on Kochsmeier Road #509. The Court indicated that after review of correspondence from ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) they did not believe they had jurisdiction. Judge Joyce indicated he would have Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany notify the applicant. See instrument # 2024-2296 for the ODOT correspondence.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of August 7, 2024 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT - RURAL PROSPERITY PARTNERS

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve a letter of support for Rural Prosperity Partners grant application to USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Rural Development for the Broadband Technical Assistance Program. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2024-2287

PARTNER MEETING

Commissioner Jacobs attended a wildfire rehabilitation partners meeting. Outreach to the ranchers is needed to advise them of procedures and programs that may be available to them. Commissioner Jacobs will try to organize a public meeting similar to what was recently held in Harney county.

AUDIT

Ms. DuBois noted that the 2023/24 fiscal year is closed and the annual audit is scheduled for October.

CULVERT

A culvert on Bully Creek Road was briefly discussed; the Road Department is aware that the culvert is plugged and will take care of it.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mendiola moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.