

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**August 21, 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, Economic and Community Development Director Taylor Rembowski, Building Official Adele Schaffeld, and Planning Director Carol Parker. 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 # 2024-2321

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made and Commissioner Jacobs welcomed Ms. Parker as a new employee of the County.

**PROCLAMATION - RECOVERY MONTH**

Mark Keele, Lindsey Nieskens, Paula Olvera, Rene Kesler, Steven Wolfe, all members of the Malheur County Prevention Coalition, were present for the signing of the Proclamation declaring September 2024 as Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors Recovery Month. Also present was Lifeways CEO Steve Jensen. The proclamation was read:

Malheur County Recovery Month Proclamation

Mental health, substance use and harmful gambling behaviors affect all communities nationwide. With commitment and support, our family members, friends, colleagues, and community members with these disorders can achieve healthy lifestyles and lead rewarding lives in recovery. By seeking help, people who experience mental health, substance use and/or harmful gambling behaviors can embark on a new path toward improved health and overall wellness. The focus of our local theme for Recovery Month for September 2024 is “The Art of Recovery!” To celebrate their journey, we recognize the challenges of recovery and we support them! We realize the need to share resources and build networks that support recovery in all forms, as we are all part of the solution. Recovery Month and Hands Around the Park spreads the message that behavioral health is essential to one’s overall health and wellness, and that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people do recover.

The impact of mental health and substance use disorders is apparent in our country, with over 40 million people in the US (United States) suffering from a substance use disorder, and over 100,000 people dying annually from overdoses. In the most recent survey, 12.63 percent of Oregon residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.82 percent. The percentage of adults reporting symptoms of anxiety and/or depression is 3% higher in Oregon than the nation. Additionally, an estimated 88,000 Oregon adults and adolescents meet the clinical

diagnosis for gambling disorder, with another 180,000 at risk of developing a problem with gambling. These conditions in one way or another affect us all. Through Recovery Month, people become more aware and able to recognize the signs of mental health, substance use, and harmful gambling behaviors, which can help guide more people into needed treatment. Managing the effects of these conditions can help people achieve healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally.

The Recovery Month observance continues to work to improve lives to promote and support treatment and recovery practices, educating communities about prevention and acknowledging the dedication of service providers and community members who assist in making recovery possible. For the above reasons, we are asking the citizens of Malheur County to join us in celebrating this September as Recovery Month.

We, as the County of Malheur in the state of Oregon, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2024 as Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors Recovery Month in Malheur County, OR, we call upon our community to observe this month with compelling programs and events that support this year's observance.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to proclaim the month of September 2024 as Mental Health, Substance Use, and Harmful Gambling Behaviors Recovery Month. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Those present answered various questions from the Court members. Hands Around the Park will be held at Lions Park in Ontario on September 12, 2024.

### **LIFEWAYS**

Lifeways CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Steve Jensen met with the Court. Mr. Jensen provided information on Project Hope; Project Hope is an initiative aimed at improving and streamlining the County's behavioral health system and addressing the growing demand for mental health and substance use treatment. A crises stabilization center will open soon. Lifeways was allotted funding through HB (House Bill) 5204 (2024) for a project to convert the West Park Plaza Mall into a facility with supported housing units; the Mall location has a lot of issues associated with it and the project may not be able to move forward at the Mall facility (funding for the project is specific to the mall property and requires a legislative fix to use the funding at a different location). Lifeways would like to apply for funding through the governor's office (HB 5030) (up to \$15 million) to build two separate standalone buildings for mental health services and substance use and recovery services. The substance use recovery center would be approximately 25,000 square feet and provide services to both inpatient and outpatient; it would have 40 beds of inpatient substance use recovery beds as well as some detox beds. (Forty beds for residential treatment and four beds for detox are projected.) The second building would include 24-hour urgent care walk-in for mental health services and include 6 short-term respite beds and 10 class II long-term treatment beds. Lifeways owns the property where it is proposed to build the urgent care crisis stabilization center (adjacent to the Lifeways building on Sunset Drive.) Federal regulations do

not allow for more than 16 beds in one location and the two facilities cannot be closer than 1500 feet. Lifeways would like to partner with the County to purchase the County owned property where the Burdic House currently sits (1152 SW 3rd Street; Ref. #2058) to build a 40-bed substance use residential facility. Building the two separate facilities is less costly than converting the mall property. The current recovery center facility is outdated and beds are limited. Mr. Jensen answered questions from the Court members. Commissioner Jacobs requested Mr. Jensen come back to the Court with a proposed purchase price for the property. See instrument # 2024-2322 for the written summary of Project Hope.

### **ROAD VACATION PETITION - HARPER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Surveyor Derrick McKrola met with the Court and reviewed his report regarding the petition for vacation of a portion of "B" Street in Harper. Mr. McKrola received a signed petition and the petition submittal fee from the superintendent of Harper School District #66 to vacate a portion of "B" Street (19 feet by 100 feet). Harper School District owns the property on both sides of the request to vacate portion. This portion is the remaining 19 feet of an original 60-foot wide platted street. The other 41 feet of the street had previously been vacated in 1976 and 2004. The school acquired the property on the northwest side known as Tax Lot 301 of the subject street strip in 2005; Mr. McKrola believes the school has used the strip ever since. A 2011 and 2013 aerial photo shows that the school was utilizing this strip next to the school track. The zoning for the surrounding land is Rural Service Center. No county improvements are within the subject strip. There does not appear to be a need to develop this street as a public road. As the addition of the building will be crossing into tax lot 301 from the existing school building in tax lot 100, the two tax lots should be consolidated. County Surveyor Derrick McKrola and Planning Director Carol Parker recommend the vacation be approved and the described portion of "B" Street be vested to the school without a need for a public hearing or public notice (as the school district is 100% the abutting owner). Mr. McKrola answered questions from the Court members. Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve the road vacation petition. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A Vacation Order will be prepared. See instrument # 2024-2323 for the written Surveyor's Report.

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of August 14, 2024 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution R24-21: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 294.471. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The purpose of the supplemental budget is to allocate Contingency Funds to the Non-Program Fund - these are holdover funds from the Department of Agriculture Grasshopper Abatement Grant; and to allocate additional funds from the Oregon Department of Human Services OHA (Oregon Health Authority) and carryover funds that were not anticipated when the budget

was adopted - these funds are for mental health services provided by Lifeways. See instrument # 2024-2324

**IGA (INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT) # 183626- SCREENWISE**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve State of Oregon Intergovernmental Grant Agreement #183626 for the Adolescent, Screenwise & Reproductive Health program. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement expires June 30, 2025 and funding is not to exceed \$125,000. A copy will be returned for recording. See instrument #2024-2437

**MOA - CANYON COUNTY**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between County of Malheur, State of Oregon and County of Canyon, State of Idaho. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement is for juvenile offenders under the jurisdiction of Malheur County to be temporarily housed at the Canyon County Juvenile Detention Center. A copy will be returned for recording. See instrument #2024-2399

**PERS RETIREE - KESEY**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve employment of PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) retiree Employment Agreement with David Kesey. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2024-2325

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session was called in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(e) Real Property Transactions with Judge Joyce presiding with Commissioner Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola present. Also present were County Counsel Stephanie Williams, Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, and Economic and Community Development Director Taylor Rembowski. No decisions were made during or following the meeting.

**COURT ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.