

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
September 25, 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 Coordinator 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 # 2024-2670

GRANT APPLICATION - OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Economic and Community Development Coordinator Taylor Rembowski met with the Court and requested authorization to submit an Invasive Species Outreach and Education Grant application to the Oregon Invasive Species Council for quagga/zebra mussels. Also present was Sheriff Travis Johnson. The mussel is an invasive species and has been found in the Snake River near Twin Falls, Idaho. It is hoped to prevent the mussel from entering the Owyhee watershed. A watercraft inspection station near Lake Owyhee would also be beneficial and is a future goal. The Court was supportive of the grant application and echoed the importance of keeping the invasive mussel out of the waterways in the county. After discussion, consensus was for Mr. Rembowski to submit the outreach and education grant application to the Oregon Invasive Species Council.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of September 18, 2024 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed. (Judge Joyce was absent for the meeting of September 18, 2024.)

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Judge Joyce moved to approve Special Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2024 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed. (Commissioner Mendiola was absent for the meeting of September 9, 2024.)

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - GERRARD

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Temporary Employment Agreement for Modernization Contract Position - Malheur County Health Department with Angela Gerrard. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The agreement terminates June 30, 2025. See instrument # 2024-2672

AMENDMENT - IGA #180022

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Eleventh Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2023-2025 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Financing of Public Health Services, Agreement #180022. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funding is

added to the Public Health Practice - Immunization Services program element. A copy will be returned for recording.

SOLID WASTE SYSTEM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT - CLAY PEAK

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Payette County Solid Waste System Participation Agreement for Clay Peak Landfill. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #2024-2673

VALE FOOD PANTRY - REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Jessica Patton, Chris Strauchon, and Luwana Hinrich from the Vale Food Pantry met with the Court and requested funding to support the Vale Food Pantry's Capital Campaign project to purchase its building for the Vale Food Pantry and Community Resource Center. The building is currently leased by the food pantry with an option to purchase. The goal is to purchase the building for use as a food pantry as well as a community resource center to serve those in need for food or access to services. The food pantry serves the communities of Vale, Ironside, Brogan, Jamison, Willowcreek, Harper, Westfall, and Juntura. The food pantry has received two grants; one grant is a technical assistance grant from the Ford Family Foundation for the board members to take grant writing classes. Additional grant opportunities are being sought; Kathy Collins is assisting with grant writing. Community resource agencies from Ontario have expressed an interest in being a part of the community resource center. The vision of the Vale Food Pantry is a collaboration of partnerships working together to create strong, capable, self-sustaining individuals. The Court thanked the food pantry representatives for the presentation and agreed to take the funding request under advisement. See instrument # 2024-2671 for correspondence from Katherine Collins and for the Vale Food Pantry & Community Resource Center Strategic Plan Summary.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Mendiola noted that both he and Commissioner Jacobs attended a recent meeting concerning the wildland fires and the information provided by the grass specialist was very informative. Commissioner Jacobs noted that Representative Bentz has a new field representative who lives in Vale.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.