

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**November 9, 2022**

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 of the Malheur County Courthouse with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Ron Jacobs present. Members of the media, public, and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. 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 # 2022-5248

**WILDLIFE SERVICES**

Scott Phillips, Wildlife Specialist with USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services) Wildlife Services met with the Court and provided a general update.

- A lot of beaver and coyote management has been taking place; coyote work was done at Ontario airport
- Completed a lot of work for ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) in an area south of Jordan Valley for Sandhill cranes
- ODFW requires a 48-hour trap check which is hindering
- Concerned about increased wolf activity in the County
- Still would like to have an exemption from the ban on the use of M-44's in order to help the ranchers
- Starling management work taking place at Beef Northwest
- Raven population is high
- Doing badger work at SRCI (Snake River Correctional Institution)

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Undersheriff Travis Johnson and Information Services Director Joshua Kreger met with the Court regarding the Sheriff's Office report management, computer aided dispatch, jail management, and civil software system proposed upgrade. It is suspected that the initial cost will be close to \$500,000; an updated quote is being sought. Undersheriff Johnson asked the Court to consider funding the initial phase of the software upgrade for all agencies (County, Ontario, Nyssa) with ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. There will be additional costs going through the upgrade process, one being for data migration; the other agencies are working on securing funding to assist in those additional costs. All agencies will continue to pay for the annual subscription fee. The new technology, coupled with cameras and computers in the vehicles, will make the agency more efficient going into the future. Commissioner Jacobs requested a breakdown by agency for the initial cost of the software system; Undersheriff Johnson is working to obtain those figures. Further updates will be provided to the Court as more information is available.

### **LIFEWAYS**

Lifeways CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Steve Jensen met with the Court. Lifeways is seeking grant funds from Oregon Health Authority to potentially build a 16-bed secure residential treatment facility in Ontario. If funding is secured and the facility is constructed, Lifeways would also like to attach to the facility a crises stabilization center. Mr. Jensen answered questions from the Court members. Commissioner Hodge moved to sign a letter of endorsement for Lifeways application for the 2022 Competitive Housing Development Licensed Residential Treatment Homes or Facilities RFGA (Request for Grant Application). Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2022-5249

### **LYTLE BLVD LANDFILL**

Planner/Interim Environmental Health Director Eric Evans met with the Court and requested authorization to close the landfill on Saturday, December 24, 2022. Signs will be posted on Lytle Blvd. and at the Landfill on Friday, December 23. Commissioner Jacobs suggested notice also be put in the newspaper. Consensus of the Court was to close the Landfill on Saturday, December 24, 2022.

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of November 2, 2022 as written. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **NACO DUES**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve payment of National Association of Counties (NACo) membership dues for 2023 in the amount of \$626.00 Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **CHECK REGISTER**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Accounts Payable Register for October 2022. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **AGREEMENT WITH MACKENZIE**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Agreement for Professional Services with Mackenzie. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mackenzie will provide professional services to analyze the industrial land in the Arcadia Industrial Park for development and sale - Phase 1. Mackenzie will assist the County in exploring the County's goals and options for the property and analyze development for highest and best use for the County and community. See instrument # 2022-5250

### **MOU WITH BLM - SAGE GROUSE**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Malheur County, Oregon as a Cooperating Agency for the purpose of preparing plan amendments to the Greater

Sage-Grouse (GRSG) management in the BLM's land use plans. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A copy will be returned for recording.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sammy Castonguay provided information on dark sky designation. The Oregon Outback Dark Sky Network proposes a "sanctuary" level status from the International Dark Sky Association for Malheur, Harney, and Lake counties. See instrument # 2022-5251 for the correspondence from Mr. Castonguay.

**COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.