

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**December 11, 2024**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Commissioner Jacobs with Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Judge Joyce was absent. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. Present in the meeting room were: Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, Economic and Community Development Director Taylor Rembowski, Building Official Adele Schaffeld, IS (Information Services) Director Joshua Kreger, and Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany. 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 # 2024-3346

**COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of December 4, 2024 as written. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed.

**LETTER OF SUPPORT - OWENS**

Mr. Rembowski explained that Representative Owens is proposing legislation for a toll road/access fee project on Owyhee Lake Road. Commissioner Jacobs noted that the project may be a good segue to be able to utilize for a check station for the zebra/quagga mussel invasive species; and noted that recreational immunity should be addressed if a fee is charged to utilize the road (the County has an easement for the road from Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and the agreement says a fee for use of the road will not be charged; this agreement would have to be amended). Implementing an access fee would provide a revenue stream to assist with road improvements and maintenance. Consensus of the Court was to sign the letter of support. See instrument # 2024-3347

Maintenance Supervisor Don Dalton joined the meeting.

**ARPA PROJECTS**

Ms. DuBois explained that \$274,434.61 remains in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding; the funding must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 2026. Projects under consideration include: heating units for the Ironhead building; Bully Creek Park irrigation system; and various IT (Information Technology) projects. (There is not enough ARPA funding to complete all the projects.) If the IT projects are not completed now the projects will need to be budgeted in the 25-26 fiscal year. The County received ARPA funding and under the lost revenue standard allowance the County can use the funds for government services; any other uses have to be for specific COVID related reporting categories. After discussion, the Court tabled the matter until their next meeting on December 18 when Judge Joyce would also be present. LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) funding can also be used for these and other projects, including the gate at the Goodfellow building.

**RESIGNATION - GRIGGS**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to accept the resignation of ASD (Ambulance Service District) Coordinator Larry Griggs. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Tiffany inquired if the Court had any objections to him contracting with Pat Woodcock to design plans for the Road Department shop. Consensus of the Court was for Mr. Tiffany to move forward with the design project.

**COURT ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.