

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

August 15, 2018

County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was County Counsel Stephanie Williams.

PALMER AMARANTH - WEED LIST

Jessica Norton met with the Court and explained that the Weed Advisory Board (WAB) has recommended the addition of Palmer amaranth to the noxious weed list as a Class A weed. Palmer amaranth is a fast growing weed that is quickly spreading out of its native areas; it currently has not been confirmed in Malheur County but it is felt that it is inevitable that it will be here as it is all over the mid-west. (Last year a local farmer thought he had it in his field but genetic testing came back negative.) It reaches heights of 6-8 feet and one plant produces up to 250,000 seeds with a very high percentage being viable. Most strains of the weed are resistant to glyphosate and 2,4-D so it is very hard to control. In the East, crop losses of 80% in corn have been reported due to the weed. The weed looks similar to what is commonly called pigweed in our area. Consensus of the Court was to proceed with adding the weed to the noxious weed list. Staff will schedule a public hearing and draft a resolution.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Court Minutes of August 8, 2018 as written. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. (Commissioner Hodge was not present on August 8, 2018.)

MARIJUANA RELATED ORDINANCE

Ms. Williams is working on draft planning and zoning ordinances relating to marijuana in the event the county-wide ban is lifted in the November election.

PUBLIC NUISANCE COMPLAINT

Commissioner Wilson mentioned he has received complaints from the property owner of 1343 SW 30th Street regarding debris accumulation, junk vehicles, etc. on the neighboring property. Staff will follow-up with Environmental Health to see if they have an open file on the property.

CHECK REGISTER

The Court signed the Accounts Payable (AP) register for May 2018.

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT - PHILLIPS

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Employment Contract between Malheur County and Dr. John H. Phillips for Medical Director Services to the Malheur County Jail. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See Instrument #[2018-3044](#)

CROSSING PERMIT

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Crossing Permit #42-18 to Idaho Power Company to install regulators on transmission poles on Morgan Avenue #926. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

BOLI DETERMINATION

Ms. Williams told the Court that a BOLI (Bureau of Labor and Industries) determination had been received regarding the re-roofing project of the Horse Barns (92 horse stalls) at the fairgrounds. The project does qualify as a prevailing wage rate project as the project would be paid for from insurance

proceeds from the winter storm damage of 2016. (Even though the re-roofing project was in the works before the winter storm of 2016.)

FAIRGROUNDS MONTHLY UPDATE

Fairgrounds Manager Lynelle Christiani met with the Court and provided an update of activities. Numbers from the recent Fair have not been finalized yet. The Court commended Ms. Christiani on the success of the recent Fair and the facilities. Statistics for June were 360 walk-ins to the office; and 4200 facility users. July had 560 walk-ins to the office; and 2300 facility users. Employing a full-time caretaker for an extended timeframe continues to be a problem; the turnover in the position is constant. Fair Board members have stepped in and helped out immensely. The facility requires approximately 6 hours per day just for irrigating. Ms. Christiani requested one of the Court members work with the Fair Board in the next budget cycle to find a possible solution to the caretaker problem (it is believed that a higher wage is needed for the position but other options need to be sought also). Ms. Christiani also explained that she wants communication regarding Fair financials to go through her and not to Board members. Ms. Christiani requested help from the County in order to keep the fairgrounds facility a positive asset in the community. Ms. Williams briefly explained possible options for employing a caretaker and utilizing the housing on the facility to Ms. Christiani. Commissioner Wilson offered to meet with Ms. Christiani at the facility and further review the concerns.

It was suggested that the Extension Office/Tax District be asked to contribute financially to the fairgrounds facility as 4-H is a large user of the facility and they are not charged a usage fee.

There are some matters in the new Girvin Hall building that need to be corrected; such as there is no 220 volt outlet and the kitchen stove is not appropriate for the facility's users (it is gas with 11 pilot lights). Additionally, it has been found that there are only two viable septic tanks rather than the three that should be in place; consequently the holding capacity is not great enough during the week of the Fair and the third tank needs to be reestablished.

MCOA&CS - ODOT AGREEMENT #32837

Malheur Council on Aging & Community Services (MCOA&CS) Executive Director Loni Debban met with the Court regarding ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) Agreement #32837. Also present was MCOA&CS Deputy Director April MacKenzie and Transportation Manager Brittany Young. The ODOT agreement is for funding in the amount of \$62,400 which would be used in part for a down payment on a land purchase in order to expand the bus shelter; the land adjoins MCOA&CS property. The grant funding is federal monies and as such it cannot be awarded directly to MCOA&CS; rather the County would need to be the owner of the property. MCOA&CS will obtain a financial loan for the remainder of the purchase price of the land. Commissioner Wilson had concerns about the purchase price of the land; Ms. Debban provided comparables for land in the area. After discussion, Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Rail and Public Transit Division Oregon Department of Transportation Agreement No. 32837 - Capital, Planning 5339. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See Instrument #2018-3086. A sub-agreement with MCOA&CS will be prepared as well as a MOU. See Instrument #2018-3243.

PLANNING DIRECTOR

The Court considered the salary request of the Planning Director candidate. Consensus was not to change the offered salary; the Court may consider a step increase at a later date in conjunction with its quarterly evaluations. The start date for employment as the Planning Director will be August 23, 2018.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.