

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**September 26, 2018**

County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, County Counsel Stephanie Williams and Surveyor/Engineer Tom Edwards.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Planner Eric Evans met with the Court. Mr. Evans provided the Court information on an appeal matter the Court will be hearing. Maria Joyce is appealing the Planning Commission's approval of a conditional use permit application to create a new twenty acre parcel with a non-farm dwelling on EFU zoned land through a partition. The applicant is Derrick McKrola and the Owner of the property is Galen and Sharlyn Jantz. The address of the property is 1547 Vale View Road. The appeal hearing is on the existing record; no new information can be introduced at the hearing.

Mr. Evans also provided his first monthly report to the Court as the Court has required.

Mr. Edwards left the meeting.

**COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of September 19, 2018 as written. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**CROSSING PERMIT**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Crossing Permit No. 43-18 to Idaho Power Company to replace a pole and install a regulator on Alberta Avenue #768. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The original permit will be kept on file at the Road Department.

Larry Meyer of the Argus Observer and John Braese from the Economic Development Office joined the meeting. Ms. Williams left the meeting.

**INTERSTATE 11 PROJECT**

Humboldt County, Nevada, County Manager Dave Mendiola, Humboldt County Commissioner Ken Tipton, Humboldt County Commissioner Jim French, Churchill County, Nevada, County Manager Jim Barbee, Churchill County Commissioner Pete Olsen, and Churchill County Commissioner Bus Sharmann met with the Court. Mr. Mendiola shared a power-point presentation with the Court regarding the current status of the Interstate 11 project.

Also present was Jeff Berry from ODOT, Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany, and Undersheriff Travis Johnson.

**Background of the project:**

**1991** - The CANAMEX Trade Corridor, connecting Mexico and Canada through Arizona, was outlined in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) highway bill.

**1994** - The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed establishing trade and manufacturing opportunities between the US, Canada, and Mexico, increasing the importance of creating a north-south connection in the Intermountain West.

**1995** - The CANAMEX corridor was defined by Congress in the 1995 National Highway Systems Designation Act.

**2010** - Construction of the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge was completed. The bridge bypasses the Hoover Dam and eliminates a major bottleneck on the CANAMEX corridor.

**2012** - Future I-11 from Phoenix to Las Vegas is designated in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) federal transportation legislation.

**2014** - The I-11 and Intermountain West Corridor Study is completed; Arizona and Nevada validate the I-11 Corridor on US 93 between Wickenburg and Las Vegas, and define a wide corridor for further study from Wickenburg to Nogales, and from Las Vegas to I-80.

**2015** - The future I-11 designation is officially extended south to Nogales and Las Vegas to I-80 in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act federal transportation legislation.

**2016 - I-11 Corridor Tier 1 EIS:** Formal National Environmental Policy Act environmental review process begins on the I-11 Corridor Study, from Nogales to Wickenburg, Arizona, with the goal of identifying a Preferred Corridor Alternative.

**2018 - I-11 Northern Nevada Alternatives Analysis:** Advanced study of the Northern Nevada connectivity option recommended in the I-11 and Intermountain West Corridor Study. This includes alternatives development, analysis, and evaluation of corridor options between Las Vegas and I-80. The Boulder City Bypass is completed August 2018.

Humboldt County and Churchill County officials want the interstate to go through their counties and on to Oregon/Idaho through the Highway 95 corridor, eventually connecting with I-84. (The route has been designated to run between Las Vegas to I-80; with several route options under study.) Segment A of the interstate has been approved by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and runs from Las Vegas to Tonopah; Segment B goes from Tonopah to I-80 and has four corridor alternatives being studied - a report is expected by the end of September. The next segment to be considered is the connection from I-80 to Oregon/Idaho. (The focus of I-11 in Nevada has been to connect the two largest economies in Las Vegas and Reno; Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval has made that clear for several years.) It was explained that the ultimate goal is to have a freeway trade corridor connecting Mexico, the US, and Canada, as an alternative to I-5 (which is heavily congested in California, Oregon and Washington). Mr. Mendiola explained that the Treasure Valley area's economy is quickly growing and the need to connect it with the Reno/Tahoe/Las Vegas/Phoenix area is critical to economic development in the western US. Traffic on Hwy 95 continues to increase over the last several years.

Other routes that were considered included Hwy 93 through Twin Falls or Hwy 395 which would go into Oregon below Lakeview. Mr. Mendiola explained that he has been told that Hwy 93 is off the table; and Hwy 395 is opposed by officials in Oregon and California. The Nevada officials encouraged local officials to be part of the discussion about the route; the Court was also asked to consider adopting a resolution or letter of support for the I-11 corridor going from I-80 through Churchill, Pershing and Humboldt Counties in northern Nevada and connecting to Hwy 95 north through Oregon and Idaho. (Reno could be connected off of the direct route by a business route without dictating that I-11 goes into Reno.) The Nevada officials will also be meeting with Idaho officials.

Undersheriff Johnson mentioned local considerations may include a need for additional law enforcement and emergency services coverage; as well as whether or not Jordan Valley would be hurt by a freeway routing traffic away from it.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Environmental Health Director Craig Geddes met with the Court. Mr. Geddes requested approval to temporarily contract with someone to assist with inspections (food establishments, RV parks, and swimming pools) in Baker. (The vacant Environmental Health Specialist position has not been filled yet.) The Court had no objections to the request. Mr. Geddes will work with Ms. DuBois and Ms. Williams on draft contract provisions.

#### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.