

**IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF GRANT**

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**April 6, 2022**

Pursuant to notice made to the newspaper of general circulation throughout Grant County, the radio station, county website, and e-mail distribution list, a regular meeting of the County Court was held at the County Courthouse in Canyon City, OR.

9:03 am -- Call to Order. Present were Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and Sam Palmer, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Millie Lysne, Judy Kerr and Scott Knepper. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag.

**HAND CHECKS.** The Court approved outside of normal claims day, checks #63607, 63608, 63646, 63667 and 63668.

**AGENDA. MSP: Myers/Hamsher** -- to accept the agenda as presented.

**MINUTES. MSP: Myers/Palmer**-- to approve the minutes of March 16, 2022 with the following amendment.

**AMENDMENT.** Page 5, under "Committee Volunteers" – Commissioner Palmer voted no on the motion.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Judge Myers attended a county Safety Committee meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, which was well-attended by county personnel. He performed a wedding ceremony that afternoon on the footbridge in Canyon City and another ceremony on April Fools' Day. He attended a Budget Committee meeting on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and noted that future budget meetings will be scheduled for Wednesday mornings or afternoons, depending on the court schedule. Myers will attend a Grant County Emergency Communications Agency Intergovernmental Council public meeting at the John Day City Fire Hall on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. A "Stop the Bleed" safety training given by the staff of Blue Mountain Hospital will be held at 8 a.m. on April 13<sup>th</sup> in the court room; the budget meeting will take place following the training. Myers has recently participated in the Community Connections of Northeast Oregon hiring process taking place across four counties. He will take part in the annual Grant County Regional Airport hangar safety inspections on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. He will perform another wedding on the bridge on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and attend an Airport Commission meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Palmer met with representatives from Oregon Telephone Company to further discuss the possibility of using matching funds to bring broadband to Lacosta Drive in the

Marysville and Edgewood Drive areas. He attended a Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) meeting at the airport. Palmer met with Planning Department Director Shannon Springer regarding some property owned by a local developer with some questions. He attended a Budget Committee meeting and the Lake Creek Camp Fundraiser, which was well-attended and well-supported.

Commissioner Hamsher attended the monthly Farm Bureau meeting at the Squeeze-In, and the Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) meeting at the airport. He has had some continued dealing with Congressman Bentz' office about current federal funding issues and current legislative bills that influence how much money is directed to counties. He has spoken with Senators Merkley and Wyden on the same matter. He attended an Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Federal Land Management committee meeting and a National Association of Counties (NACo) Western Interstates Region (WIR) meeting. Hamsher attended the county Budget Meeting and a public meeting held at the Fairgrounds to look at potential projects in preparation for the receipt of monies allotted to the county through HB5202 and HB5006. He took part in an important Eastern Oregon Caucus call on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Hamsher reported that Senator Bentz may be writing a drought-relief package that would help our local producers.

**MOVE OREGON'S BORDER.** Judge Myers contacted Senator Findley to ask if he had any current information on the status of the Move Oregon's Border movement. Senator Findley said that there had been no changes happening within the legislature and that questions remain about how state bonding indebtedness and PERS liability would be handled. Mike McCarter joined the meeting by phone to give an update on the Move Oregon's Border movement. Currently, eight counties have passed measures similar to the measure passed in Grant County in support of the movement. Three more counties, Klamath, Josephine and Douglas counties, will be voting on the issue in May. In November there will be a petition in Wallowa and, hopefully, Morrow County. They have had open discussions with Senator Findley and Representative Owens; they are in agreement that this measure has to be handled in Salem as a legislative issue. There could be a hearing in Salem during the first part of June to brief legislators. There may be letters forthcoming from Harney and Baker County to Owens and Findley, urging them to move the issue further into the state legislature. The discussions seek to identify the source of discontent for areas of eastern and southern Oregon and find solutions to those issues. He stated that Move Oregon's Border is one of, but not necessarily the only, solution to those issues. He stated that efforts to address issues in the legislature for eastern and southern Oregon thus far have been met with no success.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT.** Resolution 22-07 was proposed to transfer the oversight of the department of Emergency Management back to the Sheriff's Department. The state-mandated department has, in the past decade, had multiple coordinators. During that time, responsibility for oversight of the department shifted from the sheriff's department to the county court. Judge Myers noted that Emergency Management is funded half by state and half by the county. The current sheriff is willing to take responsibility for this oversight, which,

according to Myers, is a “natural fit” that allows the Sheriff’s Office, Search and Rescue and Emergency Management to work together as a team. Commissioner Palmer expressed his appreciation for current Emergency Management Coordinator, Eric Bush.

**MSP: Palmer/Myers– to approve Resolution 22-07 to transfer oversight of Emergency Management operations from the County Court to the Sheriff’s Office and circulate for signatures.**

9:37 am Kathy Stinnett and Sara Wilson entered

9:40 am Scott Knepper entered

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. COURT CLERKS.** Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett gave a brief update on continuing education and an upcoming conference in May. She then outlined recent changes within her office as Court Clerk Trista Strong exited Justice Court to take a position with the District Attorney. Assistant Clerk Sara Wilson was then promoted to Court Clerk. Stinnett, in reviewing the job duties, proposed that both positions be designated as Court Clerk; one as a 32-hour week and one a 20-hour week position. This would resolve potential problems of equal pay for equal work issues and decrease personnel hours by eight hours a week, saving the county approximately \$10,000 a year. Stinnett is confident that they can continue to function well. On another front, when questioned by Commissioner Hamsher as to whether the fines of repeat offenders could be replaced by community service, Stinnett stated that half of the fine belongs to the State of Oregon, and while she is still required to enforce the penalties, she is always willing to consider an offender’s efforts to pay. She feels that her office does everything they can to make the situation work, short of doing it for them.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the reconfiguration of Justice Court staffing positions to one 32-hour per week position and one 20-hour per week position as requested.**

**OFFICE CREDENZA.** Judge Stinnett then requested that she be allowed to purchase a credenza for the office for the clerk. She has the funds within her budget but not in capital outlay.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to approve purchase of the office credenza for \$350.**

**BUDGET LINE INCREASE.** Stinnett requested that the dues and training line in her 2022-23 budget line to be increased to \$1000 per year to allow for training opportunities. She noted that building contacts with other clerks is a valuable resource, and sitting in with an experienced clerk is an excellent resource. The Arlington Justice of the Peace, for example, has a clerk who has been in her position for 24 years. Hamsher asked if there are any webinars available to which Stinnett replied that they do not seem to be available. Commissioner Palmer recommended that this request then be submitted to the budget committee.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer -- to approve the Justice of the Peace to move forward with the budget request.**

**PETTY CASH DRAWER.** Judge Stinnett would like to increase her petty cash balance from \$40 to \$100. To accomplish this, she would withhold \$60 from next month’s turnover.

**MSP: Hamsher/Myers – to approve the petty cash balance to be maintained at \$100.**

9:55 am Dusty Williams and Mindy Winegar entered

**FAIRGROUNDS. FAIR ENTERTAINMENT.** Fairgrounds Manager Mindy Winegar presented a list of contracts for Fair entertainment and security to the Court for approval. She has three contracts pending and is waiting for a signature on the Hamsher Fighting Bulls contract. Commissioner Hamsher asked to recuse himself in regards to the Hamsher Fighting Bulls contract.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer – To approve the submitted contracts, pre-approval for the pending contracts and approval for the Hamsher Fighting Bulls contract.**

Winegar this year put in seven offers for the headliner entertainment with no success. She contacted buyer Romeo Entertainment, who is also used by Deschutes and Jackson Counties. They successfully negotiated the contract for Wynonna Judd and Eddie Montgomery, and while they earn a fee, they were able to negotiate the contracts down and provide other services.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to approve the contract with Romeo Entertainment for Wynonna Judd and Eddie Montgomery for a total of \$66,000.**

**RODEO CONTRACTS.** Three rodeo contracts are out for signature. She will bring them to court when they are ready. Winegar gave a big thank you to Claude Rickman of the Lazy H Ranch, who has helped keep the rodeo going and taught her so much through the years. She said that it is hard on her to go with a different company for this year's rodeo. She spoke with him yesterday and commended him as a class act and very professional.

**GRANTS: HB5006 Business Oregon Grant, HB5202 Department of Administration Service Grant Application Oregon Parks and Rec Grant.** The Fairgrounds has \$2 million and up to \$277,000, respectively, coming from the two grants. She has submitted a list of potential projects, but would like to move forward with the RV Park and parking lot, grandstand improvements and possibly the entrance on the east end of the pavilion. Judge Myers asked to meet with Winegar regarding procedures for moving forward with Request For Proposals (RFP) and contracts.

**CAMP HOST.** Winegar would like to hire Kye Cook as camp host. He performs a variety of jobs for the fairgrounds, along with hosting duties.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to approve hiring Kye Cook to be the Fairgrounds 2022 RV Camp Host.**

**RESOLUTION 22-08.** General Relief Intrafund Transfer. To transfer Materials & Services \$72,000 to Personnel Services.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve Resolution 22-08 for the transfer of \$72,000 from Materials & Services to Personnel Services as requested and circulate for signatures.**

**RESOLUTION 22-09.** Submitting the Oregon Department of Revenue Assessment Taxation Grant Application.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve Resolution 22-09 for the grant application as requested and circulate for signatures.**

**RESOLUTION 22-10. CONTINUE THE RESERVE ROAD FUND.** To establish the reserve funds in continuum without submitting the question to the voters. This fund has been maintained continuously within the County Budget archives since its creation in 1963. The court believe that it is prudent to maintain a road reserve fund.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to approve Resolution 22-10 for the continuation of the Road Reserve fund through 2032.**

**RESOLUTION 22-11. DROUGHT DECLARATION FOR GRANT COUNTY.** Judge Myers read the drought declaration to be recorded and forwarded to the local Emergency Management Coordinator to the state Emergency Operations department along with the governor’s office.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to approve Resolution 22-11 for the Drought Declaration as presented and circulate for signatures.**

**LIBRARY.** The Grant County Library Foundation has proposed to provide funding for an additional 5 hours of availability per employee during the summer session, equaling 10 hours per week, total. The funding will begin on June 5, 2022 and end on August 7, 2022.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to accept the generous funding provided by the Library Foundation that will allow the library to be open for an additional 10 employee hours per week during the summer months.**

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LEASE.** Suite 6 of the L Building to Community Connections of Northeast Oregon (CCNO) for the cost of \$325 per month for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer – To approve the lease of Suite 6 of the L Building to Community Connections of Northeast Oregon with an accompanying contract.**

**LONG CREEK TOWER SITE SUBLEASE.** The court reviewed the contract with AT&T for a lease to the 195’ tower that will be holding county communications equipment with room in the building below at no charge for a 30 year lease through December 31, 2051. The county will pay for installation of equipment by contractors as needed.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve the lease as described for the Long Creek communications tower.**

**COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS.** One application was received for committee volunteers. The Southeast Oregon Area Commission on Transportation received an application from Richie Colbeth, which was conditionally approved by the court when confirmed that it is not a conflict of interest.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the appointment of Richie Colbeth to the Southeast Oregon Area Commission on Transportation barring a conflict of interest. Palmer – voted no on the proposed appointment.**

**AMENDED MINUTES.** To amend the minutes of February 16<sup>th</sup>, page 3, under “STORAGE AND FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT” - include the Motion Seconded and Passed (MSP).

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to amend the minutes of February 16th to include the MSP for the Storage and Facilities Improvement Phase 1.**

**WOLF DEPREDATION GRANT.** This grant is to fund preventative measures to protect livestock from the wolf population. Palmer commented that we are seeing an increase, regionally, in wolf depredation.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – To approve the Wolf Depredation Grant for \$42,000 and appoint Jim Hamsher to sign the grant.**

10:53 am - Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Stinnett  
Administrative Assistant

***\*\*\*\* Please note the court minutes are a summary of the court proceedings. An audio recording of each court session is available, after approval of the minutes, by contacting the County Court at 541-575-0059 or [GCCourtAdmin@grantcounty-or.gov](mailto:GCCourtAdmin@grantcounty-or.gov) \*\*\*\****