

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

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**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – Regular Meeting of the County Court**

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, Oregon.

9:02 am -- Call to Order. Present were Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and Sam Palmer, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Reporter Steven Mitchell, Reporter Logan Baggett, Librarian Christine Ostberg, Planning Director Shannon Springer, Watermaster Eric Julsrud, Commissioner-elect John Rowell, Judge Christie Timko, Judge Rob Raschio, Health Department Manager Jessica Winegar, Consultant Nicholas Ducote and community members Millie Lysne, John Morris, Charlene Morris and Frances Preston. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was given by Pastor Al Altnow.

**CLAIMS.** The court had approved claims & extension warrants #126-140.

**AGENDA.**

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher** -- to accept the agenda as amended, with the addition of the USFS Sheriff's Department Forest Patrol grant addendum to general orders and the Extension and 4H Budget Hearing at 11:00 a.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.** JUDGE MYERS listed recent meetings including the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Local Board meeting regarding the award and allocation of monies on May 20<sup>th</sup>; the Library Foundation meeting by phone on the 26<sup>th</sup> with discussion about a Community Development Block Grant and possible future library location; the Extension and 4H Budget Hearing today, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11 a.m.; the Grant County Budget Committee meeting at 12:00 p.m.; travel to Pendleton to the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Consortium (GEODC) Board of Directors Meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup>; the Intergovernmental Council meeting on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>; travel to La Grande for the Community Connections of Northeast Oregon (CCNO) Executive Board Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> and the Family Heritage Foundation (FHF) Board of Directors Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>. COMMISSIONER PALMER introduced Commissioner-elect John Rowell to and met briefly with Circuit Court Judge Rob Raschio; met with Roadmaster Alan Hickerson; met with Economic Development Director Tory Stinnett on three potential business projects in the area; met briefly with Forest Supervisor Craig Trulock and attended the Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) meeting in La Grande with Commissioner-elect John Rowell. COMMISSIONER HAMSHER attended a Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) meeting by phone

on May 31<sup>st</sup>; a Southeast Area Commission on Transportation (SEACT) meeting last week; spoke on the local radio program, Coffee Time; took part in the National Association of Counties (NACo) Public Lands Steering Committee meeting; listened in on a White House Briefing call; attended the 4H Budget meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, the County Budget Meeting that afternoon and met with various department heads regarding the budget. He attended the John Day Bull Bash and the Memorial Day ceremony in Prairie City. He met with Ryan Torland of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Commissioner Nash on wolf issues within Wallowa County. He will attend the 4H Budget Meeting today.

**MINUTES.**

**MSP: Myers/Palmer** -- to approve the minutes of May 18<sup>th</sup> as presented. Approved unanimously.

9:10 am Nick Ducote entered  
9:12 am Julie Ellison and Jessica Winegar entered

**GENERATOR SERVICE PROPOSAL.** Josh Wolfe submitted a proposal for annual service of the generator at the jail for \$750 annually.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher** -- to approve and sign the contract as presented. Approved unanimously.

**RESOLUTIONS.**

**#22-16.** Cash loan of \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Domestic Violence Fund to be repaid in the same or succeeding fiscal year.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer** – to approve Resolution 22-16 and circulate for signature.

**#22-17.** To transfer \$35,000 from the General Fund Contingency to Emergency Management.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer** – to approve Resolution 22-17 and circulate for signature.

**#22-18.** To transfer \$65,000 from General Non-Departmental to Emergency Management and \$29,500 from General Non-Departmental to Senior Citizens.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer** – to approve Resolution 22-18 and circulate for signature.

All resolutions were approved unanimously.

**COMMUNITY COUNSELING SOLUTIONS.** Consultant Nick Ducote of Ducote Consulting has been working with Community Counseling Solutions and Administrator Kimberly Lindsay to try and find money for expansion and renovation. Currently, a million dollars is “in the kitty,” with the project estimated at 4-5 million dollars. Ducote is seeking a Community Development Block Grant to add another 1.5 million to their funds. If not able to complete both the addition and renovation at one time, the project will proceed in phases, beginning with the addition and then the renovation as funds are available. Due to their non-profit status, CCS must depend on the city or county as the “pass-through” of the grant. Ducote asked the County to consider being the applicant for the grant. The application would be due at the end of September. In reply to Hamsher’s question as to the administrator of the grant, Ducote noted that it had to be publicly procured, but was something that he would apply for. Treasurer Julie Ellison expressed

concern about the obligation to pay bills before receiving reimbursement. Myers asked if there is a match requirement. Ducote noted that there is no match, and that it is possible to either front the money or wait until grant monies are received before disbursement during the process. Ducote has worked on multiple CDBG grants since 2015, including Monument, Seneca, Mt. Vernon, John Day, Haines, Elgin, Irrigon, Umatilla, Ontario and Dayville. There would be a conflict with this project if the county were considering CBDG funding for a new library. Ducote's understanding was that the city of John Day may be involved with the new library building. Myers was unsure if this put the County in the position of choosing between the two projects. Ducote outlined the time frame for the process as nine months to develop contracts and blueprints, nine to twelve months to begin construction and one to two years for completion. The Court agreed to consider the proposal and be in contact with Ducote.

**FAIRGROUNDS.** Fairgrounds Manager Mindy Winegar submitted a contract for entertainment to be provided by the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers to take place between August 10-13, 2022.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher** – to approve and sign the contract as presented. Approved unanimously.

**ROCK QUARRY LEASE AND MINING AGREEMENT.** The Grant County Road Department submitted an agreement for a five-year lease with royalties to be paid to Holliday Land and Livestock, Inc. for rock excavation, crushing, aggregate manufacture and storage.

**MSP: Hamsher/Myers** – to approve the agreement for the lease of the Holliday Rock Quarry and circulate for signature. Approved unanimously.

**PROPERTY ANNEXATION.** At the May 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the County Court the County approved the annexation of six different properties into the John Day Rural Fire District. The orders for those have been created and are before the Court for signature. These include Orders #22-02 Belden, #22-03 Osborne, Buck, Beam, Skeen, #22-04 Speakman, #22-05 Lynch, #22-06 Estes and #22-07 Olson.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher** – to circulate for signature the Orders for Annexation approved in the May 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the County Court. Approved unanimously.

**AIRPORT LAND USE AGREEMENT.** This agreement is for the placement of Geodetic Monitoring Station equipment at the Grant County Regional Airport for a term of 15 years for the payment of \$3000.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher** – To approve the agreement as presented. Approved unanimously.

**USFS MODIFICATION OF FOREST PATROL GRANT.** Sheriff Todd McKinley submitted a Modification of Agreement 20-LE-11060400-020 from the United States Forest Service (USFS), noting an increase in funding of \$8000, for a CY 2022 Total Operating Plan of \$28,352.26.

**MSP: Myers/Hamsher** – to approve the agreement as presented. Approved unanimously.

**CLOSE RESERVE ACCOUNTS.** An Order was submitted by Treasurer Julie Ellison to close the

reserve accounts and transfer the balance to the general fund. Commissioner Palmer stated that he was inclined to wait on this until after the Budget Meeting. Commissioner Hamsher pointed out that Emergency Management Coordinator Eric Bush had information that might affect the account balances. Myers agreed that it would be better to gather all available information before enacting the order.

**MSP: Palmer/Myers** – To table Order 2022-01, Closing Reserve Accounts, until after the Budget Committee Meeting when more information is available. Agreed to table unanimously.

**TREATMENT COURT.** Circuit Court Judge Rob Raschio appeared in Court to propose the implementation of Treatment Court in Grant County. An intergovernmental agreement between Grant and Harney Counties would require a .5 FTE Treatment Court Probation Officer be added to the Community Corrections Department for a 24 month period of time. Duties are to include comprehensive case management and field supervision of treatment court participants. In return, Harney County would provide Grant County an amount not to exceed \$86,101 in sub-grant funds to assist in implementation of its portion of the project. Sheriff Todd McKinley stated that this would increase Community Corrections to three probation officers as in past years, compared to the two current positions. It would allow community service, urinalysis and saliva tests to be done on the weekends. There is no impact to the General Fund as all monies come from Special Funds.

**MSP: Palmer/Hamsher** – to approve the request as presented. Approved unanimously. Myers asked for discussion about the billing and payment process. McKinley stated that the Parole and Probation budget was able to absorb the up-front costs, even if billing took place quarterly. Treatment Court Judge Christie Timko added that it could be done on a 2-3 week billing cycle, but is open to whatever works best for the County. Timko took the opportunity to share that the Court takes only the highest criminogenic risk offenders; those who are most likely to keep going through the system. Participants must be Grant County residents. Nationwide, 90% of those who graduate from the program are not re-arrested within a 3-year time-frame. Raschio said for participants who don't comply, there will be significant consequences designed to enhance public safety. He promised to support Judge Timko and not let issues "fall through" without redress. In conclusion, Treasurer Julie Ellison had no objections to working out the monetary transactions with Harney County.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT.** Roadmaster Alan Hickerson presented a request to hire Judy Kerr as an independent consultant on road projects, as needed. County Counsel provided a contract with the stipulation that costs would not exceed \$1500. Kerr has handled two recent road issues for the department; one at no cost and the second for a nominal fee. The money will come out of the engineering/consulting account that currently holds a balance of \$43,000.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer** – to approve the request as presented. Approved unanimously.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.** Sheriff Todd McKinley presented the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Grant School District #3 to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) during the school year for the cost of \$50,000. He noted that school safety across the country is an on-going issue. The position must be filled by a certified officer. One officer, as opposed to

rotating officers, will fill the position. The income from the SRO position along with potential truancy funds from the Education Service District (ESD) could allow the department to increase needed personnel.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer** – to approve the IGA for the School Resource Officer as presented. Approved unanimously.

10:15 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) \*\*\*\****