

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

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[www.grantcountyoregon.net](http://www.grantcountyoregon.net)*

July 20, 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.

9:00 am -- Call to Order. Present were Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and Sam Palmer, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Safety Manager Ryan Palmer, Office Manager Tammy Workman, Reporter Logan Bagett, Reporter Steven Mitchell, John Rowell, Billie Jo George and Gary Cockrell. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was given by Gary Cockrell.

**CLAIMS.** The court had approved claims & extension warrants #1-12.

**HAND CHECK.** The court approved outside of normal claims day, check #64380.

**AGENDA.** MSP: Myers/ Palmer -- to accept the agenda with correction to the dates of the minutes as June 24<sup>th</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Judge Myers stated that court was canceled on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He attended the Airport Commission meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>, sat in on interviews for Seniors Program Director on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and will take part in the annual jail inspection today after Court. He will travel to La Grande to chair the Northeast Oregon Housing Association (NEOHA) meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> and noted that the next Court meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Palmer attended the local fundraiser for the Wheeler family. He participated in a zoom meeting with Representative Owens and Senator Lynn Findley and discussed staffing issues and employment. He questions the data that indicate we're "doing the best we've ever done." Palmer sat in on a Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) convener's meeting to replace the facilitator. He did a radio interview with Elkhorn Media and an interview for the Blue Mountain Eagle with Steven Mitchell. He attended the Court budget hearing and facilitated the psilocybin ordinance. Palmer also attended the Old West Federal Credit Union's luncheon to mark the re-opening of Prairie Wood Products. He will take part in the jail walk-through today after Court.

Commissioner Hamsher took part in a White House briefing call, a National Association of Counties (NACo) Public Lands steering committee meeting, had a brief call with Senator Findley, and participated in a meeting with Business Oregon representatives. He attended the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Veterans meeting and Public Safety meeting. He spoke with Connor, a staff member of Senator Bentz, and some area ranchers. Hamsher also participated in an Eastern Oregon Counties (EOC) meeting

and a Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) convener's Steering Committee meeting. He attended the parade in Prairie City on July 4<sup>th</sup> and the Old West Federal Credit Union welcome luncheon to mark the re-opening of Prairie Wood Products.

**MINUTES.** MSP: Myers/Hamsher-- to approve the minutes of the June 24<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing and the final Court meeting of the fiscal year, held on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**FAIRGROUNDS.** Fairgrounds Manager Mindy Winegar presented for approval a two million dollar grant, (House Bill 5202, 2022 Regular Session, General Fund Grant, Agreement Number 107-2022-5202-84) by the state of Oregon through its Department of Administrative Services. Judge Myers noted that the Fairgrounds will be able to do some seriously good things with the funds. **MSP: Myers/Palmer – to accept the grant and the conditions within and circulate for signature.**

**ORDER #22-08.** To refund taxes as requested by Lumen Technologies (aka CenturyLink) for payment made in error during the years of 2018 through 2022 in the amount of \$65,138.90. **MSP: Myers/Hamsher—to approve Order #22-08 to refund payment of \$65,138.90 and circulate for signature.**

**ORDER #22-09.** To designate a newspaper for the publication of the annual foreclosure of tax liens as shown by the Grant County foreclosure list; the Blue Mountain Eagle being designated as that publication. The date of signature on the Order shall be listed as July 20, 2022. **MSP: Myers/Palmer—to approve Order #22-09, designating the Blue Mountain Eagle as the publication for Grant County foreclosures and circulate for signature.**

**ROAD DEPARTMENT.** Road Department Safety Manager Ryan Palmer stated that the Road Department is asking the Court's approval to pursue a bridge grant. The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) has awarded the Road Department \$20,000 to assist with the application process, including consulting fees, grant writing, and other specifics. The Road Department would like to work with Anderson Engineering, whose bridge inspector offered valued insight about the project. The match split will be either 90/10 or 80/20. At this point, the department is considering, as a candidate, the bridge near the high school in Prairie City. **MSP: Palmer/Myers—to approve the Road Department to move forward in the process.**

**RETIRE/REHIRE POLICY.** Human Resources Manager Laurie Cates presented for review a change in the policy for retirement and rehire. The policy currently limits the number of hours the rehired employee can work, which was in keeping with state restrictions. The state of Oregon has since removed that limitation; the county would like to follow suit. **MSP: Myers/Hamsher-- to approve the revision in policy to match current state policy.**

**COUNTY SURVEYOR.** County Surveyor Mike Springer presented for approval and signature, a subdivision on Holmstrom Heights, creating four lots on the east end of Charlois Heights. Two road areas will be dedicated as public roads. Springer noted that historically Grant County has done one subdivision every 8-10 years. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> subdivision this year, and he noted that there are three more in process. **MSP: Hamsher/Myers—to approve the proposed subdivision and affix signatures.**

**RESOLUTION 22-26.** To transfer funds according to Oregon Budget Law and as part of the current year

budget for Grant County, including six transfer of funds. **MSP: Hamsher/Palmer—to approve Resolution 22-26 for transfer of funds and circulate for signature.**

**RESOLUTION 22-27.** To transfer funds from the Road Reserve to the Treasurer and the Road Reserve to the Road in the amounts of \$276,823 and \$462,843, respectively. **MSP: Myers/Palmer—to approve Resolution 22-27 for the transfer of funds and circulate for signature.**

**BROADBAND DISCUSSION.** Emergency Management Coordinator Eric Bush brought information regarding broadband options for the County. The legality of using federal funds on the Grant County Digital project has not been verified. The County is facing the pressing issue of being at the peak of unavailable bandwidth of 30 megabytes. The industry standard and level of bandwidth needed, according to Education Service District (ESD) Superintendent Robert Waltenburg, is 1 gigabyte or 1000 megabytes. Oregon Telephone Company (OTC) is offering 1 gigabyte of service. Bush asked for permission to move forward to establish an agreement with OTC. He would like the assistance of Robert in negotiating a contract, and will bring it back to the Court for approval. **MSP: Myers/Palmer-- to approve Emergency Management to pursue further information regarding broadband options for the Courthouse.**

Bush also clarified that the Day Wireless invoice listed on the agenda is not a quote, but an invoice sent to claims for payment.

**JUVENILE DEPARTMENT TRAINING.** To approve the request for Juvenile Counselor Mike McManus to attend the trainings in August and September of 2022, of which the department has the funding within their budget. **MSP: Myers/Hamsher—to approve the request for Juvenile Counselor Mike McManus to attend trainings in August and September of 2022 using funds available within their budget.**

**FIRE ALARM SYSTEM.** The installation of the alarm system has been delayed for various reasons. The state of Oregon notified the county that they had a 90 day window to complete the installation. **MSP: Myers/Hamsher— to approve the quote QT01262-3 from Alpine Alarm Systems for \$10,104.94, and proceed with installation.**

9:48 am            Break  
10:00 am           Meeting resumed

**FAIR ENTERTAINMENT.** To approve the contract with Philip James for a scheduled musical performance during the Grant County Fair. **MSP: Myers/Hamsher— to approve the contract as submitted.**

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS.**

LIBRARY The Court appointed Ryan McKnab and Vicki Thompson to fill the current vacancies as recommended by the Library Board. They will serve a 4-year term to expire June 30, 2026. **MSP: Myers/Palmer—to approve the two applicants to fill the vacancies on the Library Board.**

NATURAL RESOURCE Currently, the committee cannot go above 10 members. The board voted to decrease the board size to seven members. Judge Myers noted that the request would need to be submitted to and approved by the court. He suggested that the board continue with 10 members until the issue is brought before the Court. **MSP: Myers/Palmer – to appoint King Williams to fill the current vacancy with the term ending 12/31/2023.** Palmer mentioned that NRAC had approached him with the desire to reduce the board numbers. Billie Jo George asked if the board would be able to give input as

they were not aware that they were getting a new member. Myers and Hamsher agreed that with one applicant and the difficulty in getting a quorum, it makes sense to go ahead with the appointment.

ROAD ADVISORY BOARD The Court reappointed Ron Phillips and Ron Greb to the board. **MSP: Myers/Palmer—to reappoint Ron Phillips and Ron Greb to the Road Advisory Board with the term to expire June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

PLANNING DEPARTMENT The Court consensus was that in the interest of time, and with a lone and well-qualified applicant, it was not necessary to wait for a recommendation from the Planning Commission. **MSP: Myers/Hamsher -- To appoint Teena Ballard to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission with the term to expire on 12/31/2023.**

10:07 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 Laurie Stinnett at 541-575-0059 or [gccourtadmin@grantcounty-or.gov](mailto:gccourtadmin@grantcounty-or.gov) .

**JAIL INSPECTION.** At 10:15 AM, pursuant to ORS 169.040, the court members and court administrative assistant conducted an inspection of the Criminal Justice Facility led by Corrections Officer Mike Alley. A tour was made of the facilities, which included the Sallie port, booking room, kitchen, medical room, exercise room, cell areas and control room. The inspection concluded at 10:45 am.