

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

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February 1st, 2023 – 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, OR.

9:03 am -- Call to Order. Present were Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and Sam Palmer, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, South Fork Watershed Council Executive Director Amy Stiner, Project Manager Hanna Latzo, Reporter Bennett Hall, Roadmaster Alan Hickerson, Road Office Manager Tammy Workman, Firewise Director Irene Jerome, Grant Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Kyle Sullivan, Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett, John and Charlene Morris, Louis Provencher, Francis Preston, Judy Kerr and Millie Lysne. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was given by Kelly Workman.

AGENDA. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of items G and Q-T. Approval unanimous.

MINUTES. MSP: Myers/Hamsher -- to approve the minutes of January 18th, 2023 as presented. Approval unanimous.

GRANT COUNTY SAFETY PROGRAM. Safety Manager Ryan Palmer presented a completed safety program manual to the county for approval. MSP: Myers/Hamsher -- to approve the Safety Program as presented. Discussion: Commissioner Rowell commented that there did not appear to be guidance for the process of dealing with an injured employee. Approval unanimous.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE/BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) CONTRACT AMEDEMMENT. The contract was amended to extend the term of the contract for the amount of \$10,000.00. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the contract amendment as presented. Approval unanimous.

CLERK'S OFFICE MINI-SPLIT INSTALLATION. Commissioner John Rowell moved to table approval of the cost of electrical wiring costs for the installation of the mini-split heating/air-conditioning system in the Clerk's office until multiple quotes can be obtained.

ROAD DEPARTMENT/PRAIRIE CITY ROCK SHED SHARE MOU. The Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to describe the activities of both partners: Grant County agrees to provide rock and share maintenance of the City of Prairie City Rock Shed. The City agrees to the usage of the rock shed by the County and allowing storage of County equipment on the City property. MSP: Myers/Rowell – to approve the MOU and authorize the Roadmaster to sign the MOU as presented. Approval unanimous.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE. Victim Assistance Director Kaylie Clark asked the Court's approval for the Chief Deputy District Attorney, Victim Assistance Director, Victim Intervention Specialist and a Sheriff's Deputy to attend the annual International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Fighting for Change to be held in Chicago, Illinois on April 10th-14th, 2023. The cost of the conference is available in the existing VAWA grant budget in funds that are allocated for training. The anticipated costs for the conference are \$2,523.78 per person and \$10,955.12 for four attendees. MSP: Hamsher/Rowell – to approve the training as presented. Approval unanimous.

9:17 am Julie Ellison entered

SOUTH FORK WATERSHED COUNCIL UPDATE. Executive Director Amy Stiner presented the Watershed's 2022 annual report. Noted were the board of directors and staff, meeting schedule, project information including juniper removal, water developments, fence installation, aspen enhancements, forest health projects, BDAs and seeding. They worked with 22 contractors and 13 landowners; held 5 outreach events; have 17 open projects, 7 completed projects and 5 new projects and have eight (8) different funding sources. Further information is available on record at the courthouse and on the website. The Court thanked Stiner for the presentation.

9:32 am King Williams entered

9:34 am Shannon Springer entered

NUISANCE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION. Planning Director Shannon Springer reminded the Court that an appropriate response for septic issues within the county needs to be addressed. This would include adopting framework to authorize the Planning Department to address county septic problems and issue violations. It would also authorize Registered Environmental Health Specialist Jesse Barnes to identify those issues while in the field. Logistics of enforcement were discussed, with the Justice Court and Sheriff's Office both considered as avenues of enforcement. Commissioner Hamsher pointed out that most cities had their own nuisance ordinances. Planning Department liaison Commissioner Rowell will oversee the process and contact County Counsel to generate policy. MSP: Hamsher/Myers – to move ahead with the nuisance ordinance pertaining to county septic issues. Approval unanimous.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE GRANT APPLICATION. Economic Development Coordinator Tory Stinnett presented the court with an opportunity for wildfire risk management funding. The collaboration with the soil and water district allows for an ask of up to \$500,000.00. Permission was sought prior to February 1st in order for the application to meet the January 31st deadline. Collaborators include Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District - Kyle Sullivan; Grant County Fire Wise Program and County Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Irene Jerome; Oregon Department of Forestry – Brandon Ferguson and Grant County Economic Development – Tory Stinnett. If successful, the funds will be used to support the transition of Fire Wise Coordinator Irene Jerome's job duties to the District and support outreach efforts and reduce fuels within the vicinity of Prairie City, Mt. Vernon, Canyon City, Monument and Dayville and around private residences with the condition that they continue maintenance of the

original treatment.

L BUILDING QUOTE FOR INSTALLATION OF MINI-SPLIT. This item was identified as an invoice from B.B. Smith Heating & A/C LLC for installation of a multiport mini-split in Suites 1 & 2 in the L Building for a cost of \$12,860.00. It was mistakenly identified on the agenda as a quote. The area is in the process of being renovated from a maintenance workshop to the juvenile parole and probation office. Commissioner Rowell emphasized the importance of bringing budget requests to the court for approval. Judge Myers noted that it is work being done by maintenance and that he should have seen it as a quote before the work was done. Myers identified it as a misstep in the process of trying to move three departments into different work spaces as soon as possible. Commissioner Hamsher noted the urgency to separate adult parolees from juvenile parolees, as they now share a building. Judge Myers concluded that the issue had been sufficiently addressed and Hamsher noted that the invoice needed to be paid. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve payment of Invoice 2559 as presented. Approve – Myers and Hamsher. Oppose – Rowell.

HOUSE BILL 2174 – RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL FOREST RESERVE MONIES. This bill amends ORS 294.060 and on Page 2, paragraph 4, explains the ability of the governing body of a county to request that monies from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (ODAS) be paid to its county road service district formed under ORS 371.044 to 371.110. If the county does not have an established road service district, approximately \$250,000.00 is withheld yearly due to prior year SRS payments. Discussion followed about the sources, oversight and distribution of the moneys in question. Commissioner Hamsher stressed that allocations and administration of the money does not change, as noted in HB 2174 that “(c) Moneys credited to a public body under this subsection shall be used in the same manner and subject to the same restrictions as would have applied to the moneys in the hands of the county that made the request under paragraph (b) of this subsection, including, but not limited to, the requirements of ORS chapter 368 related to the use of moneys in a county road fund.” MSP: Hamsher/Myers – to move forward with notice and formation of a County Road Service District. Approval unanimous.

10:25 am Wade Waddel entered

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS. Judge Myers appointed the following committee members:

MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to appoint Amy Kreger to the Extension and 4H District Advisory Council for a three (3) year term with an expiration date of 12/31/2025. Approval unanimous.

MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to appoint Mark Webb to the Extension and 4H District Advisory Council for a three (3) year term with an expiration date of 12/31/2025. Approval unanimous.

MSP: Myers/Rowell – to appoint Denise Porter to the Extension and 4H District Advisory Council for a three (3) year term with an expiration date of 12/31/2025. Approval unanimous.

MSP: Myers/Rowell – to appoint Rick Henslee to the Planning Commission for a four (4) year term with an expiration date of 12/31/2026. Approval unanimous.

MSP: Myers/Rowell – to appoint Andy Day and M.T. Anderson to the Wildlife Advisory Board,

expiration 12/31/2025. Approval unanimous.

Shannon Springer asked that Kelly McGirr's previous expiration year of 2026 be corrected to the year 2025.

DISCUSSION: King Williams noted that there had been two applications for the Natural Resource Advisory Committee and asked if the Court were going to appoint either of them today. Judge Myers explained that they had, two weeks ago, discussed the option of NRAC operating with between seven and ten members as needed. There are currently seven committee members; the Court has received no recommendation from the committee for further appointments. Judge Myers stated that his preference would be to suspend the activities of the committee until the pending lawsuit involving various members is resolved. While the Court has the final decision, it is their practice to wait on recommendations from the committees. Commissioner Hamsher reiterated that every other committee has the opportunity to recommend appointments. Judge Myers again reiterated his preference to suspend operations, considering the legal action involving committee members.

JAIL WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT. Sergeant Wade Waddel noted that his original agenda request for the replacement of one water heater has increased to a request for three water heaters to be replaced. They were installed on the same date with a five year warranty and have been in use for seven years. The new water heaters have an eight year warranty. The invoice from Ed Staub & Sons for all three comes to a total of \$5,400.00 and \$5,655.00 with installation not including the reconnection of pressure relief valves. This amount is available in their building maintenance. MSP: to approve the purchase and installation of three (3) water heaters in the jail building and Patriot Plumbers estimate for the filtration system at \$2176.35. Approval unanimous.

GRANT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AUDITOR CONTRACT. Sergeant Wade Waddel submitted a contract for the services of Denise Diamond of Diamond Consulting, a Department of Justice Certified Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Auditor, located in Battle Ground, Washington. The auditor shall have the responsibility and authority to independently observe, assess, review and report on the agency's implementation and compliance with the National PREA Standards. The total proposed audit cost is \$4,200.00 and total expenses are \$639.50. Contract MSP: Hamsher/Myers – to approve the request as presented and affix contract signature. Approval unanimous.

RESOLUTION 23-03 BUDGETED TRANSFERS, ROAD TO SCHOOL FOREST AND ROAD TO CITIES-STREETS-BRIDGES. The following transfer is part of the current year budget for Grant County: Road to School Forest in the amount of \$468,440.00 and Road to Cities-Streets-Bridges in the amount of \$406,945.00. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve Resolution 23-03, the transfer of funds as presented and circulate for signature. Approval unanimous.

RESOLUTION 23-04 INTRAFUND TRANSFERS, RELIEF HELP FUND. The Court approved paying Emergency Managements vehicle repair from ARPA funds, transferring funds from Capital Outlay to Materials and Services. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve Resolution 23-04, the transfer of funds as presented and circulate for signature. Approval unanimous.

ARPA FUND PURCHASE. The Court approved a State Homeland Security grant to purchase \$65,265.00 in communications equipment for the RUCS project. Unanticipated cost increases over the past twelve months left a balance of \$384.00 above the total grant funds. Emergency Management Coordinator Eric Bush recommends that \$384.00 of the \$890.02 total uncommitted ARPA funds be used. MSP: Myers/Hamsher: to approve the request as presented. Approval unanimous.

SIM CARD PURCHASE. Emergency Management Coordinator Eric Bush requested the approval of a subscription for a Verizon 2FF SIM card at the cost of \$39.99 per month for three (3) years. The subscription is a component of a previously approved communications equipment grant. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to authorize the subscription for the SIM card as requested. Approval unanimous.

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING WORK SESSION. The Court set a date for the proposed work session, open to the public, to discuss public safety status within the County. The Court decided to set the date for February 15th at 1:30 p.m.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY REQUEST FOR COMPUTER PURCHASE. District Attorney (DA) Jim Carpenter requested new computers for two paralegals and a high-functioning laptop for himself. The total cost of \$4,507.00 would be paid out of the DA’s budget from Capital Outlay and an intrafund transfer from Investigations to Capital Outlay. MSP: Myers/Hamsher -- to approve the request for purchase of computers as presented. Approval unanimous.

11:23 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 *******