

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF GRANT

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February 12th, 2020

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 Kim Puckett, Alan Hickerson, Haley Walker, Kathy Stinnett, Katy Nelson, Judy Kerr, Billie Jo George, Steve Fletcher, Tammy Workman, Rich Tirico, Mindy Winegar, Donna Palmer, Dusty Williams, Elaine Smith, Gary Cockrell, Bob Pereira, John Morris, Mike Springer, Chris Labhart, Shawn Duncan, Susan Church, Reporter Logan Bagett, Mary Ellen Brooks, Frances Preston, Kim Kell, Cindy Lemcke, Rob Raschio, Jim Carpenter, Dave Dobler, Reporter Steven Mitchell and Pastor Cockrell . A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was given by Pastor Gary Cockrell.

CLAIMS. The court had reviewed and approved claims and extension district warrants # 70-83. Tagged claims from the District Attorney Bar dues \$627.00 were against policy page 51 subsection G.

HAND CHECK. The court approved outside of normal claims day checks#58887, 58904, 58905.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Judge Myers went to a joint facilities meeting to discuss the mutual relationship with the US Forest Service. On the 27th he met Courtney Crowell from Oregon Solutions. On the 28th he went to Baker City for Community Connections Board of Directors meeting. He attended Kathy Gillam's retirement celebration at the Outpost. Myers attended the Heritage Foundation Board of Director's meeting at the Outpost. February 6th he attended labor negotiations regarding the Sheriff contract and a Road Advisory Meeting. Myers conducted a wedding in Prairie City February 7th. On February 14th he will attend two executive sessions in the morning, and in the afternoon he will conduct another wedding.

Commissioner Palmer attended a funeral for a good friend, Dave Fronapel. On the 26th he met with Vicki Purdy from Adams County, Idaho. On the 27th he met with the Farm Bureau, Treasurer, and the Sheriff's Office. He attended the Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) meeting on January 28th in LaGrande. January 29th he attended an executive session and also met with Economic Development. On the 31st Palmer went to a candidate forum for Circuit Judge. February 3rd he had a phone conference on public lands and public health. On the 4th he attended a phone conference about Coronavirus. February 5th he met with Economic Development, the Sheriff's Office, and then went to a special court meeting. On February 7th he went to a special court planning commission meeting. Palmer also announced that he has a beautiful new granddaughter.

Commissioner Hamsher traveled to LaGrande for an Eastern Oregon Counties Association Meeting (EOCA). He attended the Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) meeting on January 28th. Hamsher attended an executive session on January 29th and a special meeting on February 5th. He had a meeting with Allison Field from Economic Development and Sally Bartlett. Hamsher took part in a NEPA informational conference on February 3rd. He attended an EOCA meeting telephonically for the purpose of electing officers due to the departure of Representative Owens. On February 10th he took part in an Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Federal Lands Management Subcommittee meeting telephonically. Hamsher took part in an AOC Natural Resources Steering Committee meeting telephonically. He met with Economic Development, the Veterans Services Department, the County Treasurer, and Human Resources. On February 13th he took part in a telephonic meeting on proposed NEPA policy changes. He attended a Natural Resources Advisory Committee Meeting on February 13th. On February 24th he will attend an EOCA quarterly meeting in LaGrande and he will attend a BIC meeting at Eastern Oregon University on the 25th.

MINUTES. MSP: Myers/Hamsher-- to approve the January 22, 29th & Feb 5th minutes as presented.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY. Jim Carpenter discussed with the court the County Surveyor position and the way in which he has been compensated. **Judge Myers requested that he bring back a written agreement to the court about the Surveyor's compensation for approval.**

HOPE 4 PAWS. Chris Labhart and Shawn Duncan, Susan Church, & Scotta Callister local volunteers advocating for local pets, requested from the court support and help with partial funding for the program. They have been in operation since 2016. The program is to improve the lives of pets and pet owners in the community. There are many different programs offered. There is a need for volunteers and help. **The consensus was to this bring back to the court regarding a specific part of their program that needs assistance.**

CONCERNED CITIZEN. Bob Pereira discussed his concerns with the court regarding interactions with the City of John Day. He feels the city is putting more and more pressure on tax payers. Grant County is a natural resource based economy. He believes that the City of John Day is headed towards an infrastructure that they themselves cannot afford. Pereira feels that the City should go with the initiative petition process before going to the county as well as bring it to a vote with their constitutes. In his opinion this is their plan to subvert measures 5 & 30 that was passed in the 1990's. He respectfully requests that the county pull out all ties currently with the broadband coalition as the conditions in the agreement allows the court to do so. In summary he stated, the worst thing we can do is make bad decisions for many of our taxpayers and not realize it.

FAIRGROUNDS. Mindy Winegar, Fairgrounds Manager discussed with the court the rides, bouncy houses, and a concert for Fair. Minegar received quotes and requested approval from the court to select Jukebox Express. **MSP: Myers/Palmer --to approve a contract with Jukebox Express in the amount of 11,355.00, pending the outcome of a Carnival.** Minegar requested approval to bring in two different headlining acts for the 2020 Grant County Fair concerts. **MSP: Palmer/Myers --to move forward with the proposed artists for the concert.** Winegar requested crowd control barriers and security for the concert. **MSP: Myers/Palmer-- to move forward with purchasing the powder coated barriers for crowd control from Uline in the amount of \$4928.96.**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY. Jim Carpenter, District Attorney discussed with the court compensation for Richard Tirico, Medical Death Investigator. Carpenter recommended that it is paid by occurrence and based on the effort put into it. **MSP: Myers/Palmer --to establish an on call rate of pay of \$30.00/hr for Death Investigator Richard Tirico and increase the budget line for the future and to reimburse for previous times of travel.**

GRANT COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE. Kim Kell, Secretary and Cindy Lemcke, President discussed with the court the use of the county yard during Cycle Oregon September 12th - 19th. **MSP: Hamsher/Palmer --to approve the use of the old road department yard.**

GRANT COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE. Dave Dobler, Search & Rescue Coordinator gave the court an update on Search & Rescue missions taken place during the last 16 months. Dobler states they have had over 40 missions. Dobler asked the court to increase the budget per year for the program.

AIRPORT. The court reviewed an Independent Fee Estimate (IFE) contract with Century West Engineering for the Environmental Assessment Project. **MSP: Palmer/Myers --to approve the contract.**

CYBER SECURITY. The court discussed adding additional cyber security coverage to the policy. **MSP: Hamsher/Palmer --to have City County Insurance (CIS) work with the Education Service District (ESD) to determine what is needed.**

ALARM SYSTEM. The court discussed and reviewed the bid for a potential new alarm system in the Courthouse. Alpine Alarm has given a bid for \$4,000 for the replacement. **MSP: Myers/Hamsher --to secure a contract for the upgrade.**

COUNTY COURT DEPARTMENT LIAISONS. The court discussed court department liaison assignments. **MSP: Hamsher/Myers --to approve as changed by Judge Myers and Commissioner Palmer. The court agreed by consensus to the following liaison assignments.**

Judge Myers – Airport, Community Corrections, Mental Health/Public Health, Property Maintenance, Road.

Commissioner Palmer – Assessor, Clerk, Human Resources, Justice Court, Library, Planning, Surveyor, Water Resources.

Commissioner Hamsher- District Attorney/Victims, Economic Development, Emergency Management, Extension & 4H, Fair & RV Park, Sheriff/Jail, Treasurer, Veterans.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY. Judge Myers suggested that we appoint Beth Simonson as the Title III coordinator to track Title III projects and expenses. **MSP: Myers/Palmer --to appoint Beth Simonson as Title III coordinator.**

SOLUTIONS AUDIT. The court reviewed the contract with Solutions Audit .**MSP: Hamsher/Myers --to approve and sign the contract.**

PUBLIC COMMENT. The court accepted public comment.

Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Puckett
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 Kim Puckett at 541-575-0059 or puckettk@grantcounty-or.gov *****