

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

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**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 -- Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and John Rowell, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Watermaster Eric Julsrud, County Surveyor Mike Springer, Planning Director Shannon Springer, Roadmaster Alan Hickerson, Office Manager Tammy Workman, Safety Manager Ryan Palmer, Reporter Bennett Hall, Jesse Madden, Louis Provencher, Judy Kerr, Frances Preston and John Morris. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag.

**AGENDA. MSP: Myers/Hamsher** -- to approve the agenda for February 15<sup>th</sup> as presented.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL REPORTS** – The Court reported on their activities and meetings subsequent to the last court meeting. Announcement was made of a Public Safety Work Session to take place this afternoon at 1:30 pm.

**MINUTES. MSP: Hamsher/Myers** -- to approve the minutes of February 1<sup>st</sup> as presented.

**RESOLUTION 23-08, DROUGHT DECLARATION.** Based on the recommendation and data supplied by Watermaster Eric Julsrud, the Court prepared a resolution to declare a drought in Grant County. The resolution allows the County to receive future state and federal resources that may be available if needed. MSP: Hamsher/Rowell – to approve Resolution 23-08, declaring a drought emergency in Grant County. Approval unanimous.

**COUNTY SURVEYOR MIKE SPRINGER.** Springer submitted for consideration the replat to combine two parcels of private property at the Industrial Park. MSP: Myers/Rowell – to approve the request and circulate for signature. Approval unanimous.

**RESOLUTION 23-05, DISTRICT ATTORNEY (DA) INTRAFUND TRANSFER.** The resolution was for submitted for the transfer from Materials & Services to Capital Outlay in the DAs budget in the amount of \$1245.00. MSP: Myers/Rowell – to approve the transfer and circulate for signature. Approval unanimous.

**RESOLUTION 23-06, REQUEST TO RESCIND.** The Court approved the treasurer’s request to rescind Resolution 23-03, Budgeted Transfers, Road, which were transposed. The resolution was previously approved and recorded. MSP: Myers/Rowell -- to rescind Resolution 23-06 as requested. Approval unanimous.

**RESOLUTION 23-07, ROAD TO SCHOOL FOREST, CITIES-STREETS-BRIDGES.** Submitted by the treasurer for consideration of the transfer from Road to School Forest in the amount of \$406,945.00 and Road to Cities-Streets-Bridges in the amount of \$468,440.00. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the request and circulate for signature. Approval unanimous.

**FAIR CONTRACTS. CARLSON SOUND AND LIGHT, SOUND STAGE.** MSP: Myers/Rowell– to approve and circulate for signature. **JIM BOB CUSTER, CUSTER ENTERPRISES.** Rodeo announcer. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve and circulate for signature. **BOUNCE HOUSE LLC:** MSP: MYERS/HAMSHER – to approve and circulate for signature. Approval for all three contracts unanimous.

**ALPINE ALARM CONTRACT.** In addition to the original elevator repair contract, work to repair the elevator alarm system in the amount of \$2800.00 was required in order to be in compliance with the state by a March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 deadline. MSP: Hamsher/Myers – To approve and circulate for signature. Approval unanimous.

**INDIGENT COUNSEL PAYMENT.** Justice Court payment for public defense has been set at a rate of \$60.00 per hour since 1998. The Justice Court requests consideration of the adjustment of that rate to \$75.00 per hour. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the request and circulate for signature. Approval unanimous.

**RELOCATE PRIVATE ROAD ACCESS.** Landowner Jesse Madden asked that the relocation of his private access road off the Industrial Park county road be considered by the Court. Roadmaster Alan Hickerson stated that in order for the county to take it over, it would need to be built to county specifications at considerable expense, which Madden acknowledged. Planning Director Shannon Springer answered questions about code requirements. MSP: Hamsher/Rowell – to approve the request for relocation of the private road. Discussion: Madden noted that the development of the property would bring increase to the tax rolls and pay for road maintenance costs in future.

**SOLID WASTE REBATE.** Grant County’s designation as a “distressed county,” qualified them for receipt of \$1290.00 from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Commissioner Hamsher recommended that the funds be used to decrease county residents’ waste/recycling fees. Discussion concluded with the decision to ensure that the funds be used on recycling and/or solid waste removal. MSP: Myers/

9:45 enter John Morris

**LIBRARY BOARD INCREASE HOURS OF OPERATION AND STAFF.** Librarian Christine Ostberg requested that the Court consider the increase of eighteen (18) additional staff hours per week in order to expand the hours of operation. The total cost of the increase would be \$29,040.00 per year. The library is currently closed on Friday and Saturday. The library board would like to see that changed, bring back the Lego Club and provide a safe place for children to be with no

school on Friday, and develop programs to read to seniors at Valley View, create a Spanish speaking club for adults and children, and create computer literacy classes. Hamsher asked if other funding is available. Ostberg said they are looking for grant money. The library increased its patronage by 23% in the last year by revising its operational hours. Material checkout has increased by 16%. Hamsher asked if there are two people working at all times, which Ostberg affirmed. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to move the request forward to be considered during the budget process. Approval unanimous.

**COUNTY COURT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.** Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett asked the Court to consider increasing her hours from twenty (20) hours a week to thirty (30) hours per week. The yearly increase would total \$15,669.73. MSP: Myers/Rowell – to move the request forward to be considered during the budget process. Approval unanimous.

**FIRE DEFENSE BOARD COMMUNICATION SITE AGREEMENT.** Due to the volunteer status of the Fire Defense Board, their fees for the use of the site are waived. The late return of their agreement was submitted to the Court for signature. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the agreement and circulate for signature. Approval unanimous.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT.** The Road Department asked the Court to approve the pursuit of a second grant option that would address the same issues as a recent unsuccessful application. The previous grant was denied when the department did not submit a large enough project to qualify. MSP: Hamsher/Myers -- to move forward with the grant process. Approval unanimous.

**ROAD SERVICE DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENT (RSD).** The resolution could not be considered until the legal description from the county surveyor could be completed.

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)*