

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

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March 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.

AGENDA – MSP: Myers/Hamsher -- to approve the agenda for February 15th with the addition of Item D., relocate Seniors Program L Building office to Suite 4.

9:03 am -- Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and John Rowell, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Reporters Bennett Hall and Neil Nisperos, Frances Preston, Louis Provencher, Judy Kerr, Gary Cockrell, Tammy Workman, Alan Hickerson, Millie Lysne, Charlene Morris, Eric Bush, Julie Ellison, Shannon Springer. Twelve participants attended via Grant County's live-stream. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was offered by Gary Cockrell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL REPORTS were given by the Judge and Commissioners. Noted was Corrections Officer Mike Alley retirement after 23 years. Commissioner Hamsher spoke about restoring rail service which would run from Baker to Boise and is unanimously supported by Eastern Oregon counties. He stated that talks are underway for potential flights from Pendleton to Salem.

CLAIMS. The court had approved claims and extension warrants 94-102.

HAND CHECKS. The Court approved outside of normal claims day, checks 66129 and 66131.

MINUTES - MSP: Myers/Hamsher -- to approve the minutes for February 15th as presented. Approval unanimous.

LONG CREEK SHOP DOORS. Roadmaster Alan Hickerson requested the Court's approval for the purchase of mechanized shop doors for the Long Creek shop. The current doors are chain The three bids were submitted as follows: The Door Guy, La Grande for \$2742.00; R&K Garage Doors, Pendleton for \$8350.00; NE-HI Enterprises, Baker City for \$3838.00. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the recommendation of Roadmaster Alan Hickerson and award the bid for \$3838.00 to NE-HI Enterprises. Hickerson has previously worked with the company with positive results. Approval unanimous.

SOLICIT REFERAL FOR PROPOSALS (RFPs) OR ACCEPT CURRENT AUDIT PROPOSAL. The Court weighed options to either solicit for audit proposals or accept the current Solutions, CPAs

agreement for the upcoming audit. Judge Myers noted that it can be challenging to get an auditor who can meet an audit deadline, which has not been an issue with the current auditor. It was noted that our ability to gather needed information and materials can affect the cost, and that soliciting for proposals could take weeks, if not months, and still not guarantee a cost savings. Ellison commented that the number of grant agreements can affect the time spent on the audit. The amount budgeted for the audit last year was \$47,000.00. This year's audit is estimated to not exceed \$50,000.00 with the cost of assisting in the preparation not to exceed \$10,000.00. MSP: Hamsher/Rowell: to approve the contract with Solutions, CPAs for this year's audit. Myers amended the motion to include signing of the contract, seconded by Rowell. Approval unanimous.

ORDER 2023-01 - ORDER TO ESTABLISH A ROAD SERVICE DISTRICT. Judge Myers read the order proposing the establishment of the road district with the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining all county roads in unincorporated Grant County. In establishing the district, the County would not be required to reimburse \$250,000.00 of SRS monies and would be able to retain that amount within its budget. Attached to the order are Exhibits A, B and C, provided by County Surveyor Mike Springer, which define the unincorporated area which the road district would serve. If the order is approved, the county will then give notice of the period of public comment and announce the public hearing date of April 5th at 9:05 am. MSP: Hamsher/Rowell – to approve Order 2023-01 to propose the establishment of the Grant Count Road Service District and advertise the public hearing. Approval unanimous.

SENIORS PROGRAMS REQUEST TO RELOCATE. Seniors Programs Director Misty Palmer asked to relocate her office from a shared space with Community Connections to Suite 4 at the L Building owned by the county. The discussion prompted talk of an increase in rent for other tenants of the L Building, including the Grant County Food Bank and Community Connections. Commissioner Hamsher was not in favor of charging rent for the Seniors Programs, even if they receive revenue allowing them to do so. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the relocation of the Seniors Programs office to Suite 4 of the L Building. Approval unanimous.

RESOLUTION 23-09 – ELECTIONS INTRAFUND TRANSFER. The transfer of \$6,478.00 from Capital Outlay to Materials & Services was made to cover the cost of the purchase of envelopes for elections. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve Resolution 23-09 for the intrafund transfer of \$6,478.00 to cover the cost of the election envelopes purchase. Approval unanimous.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT PROCUREMENT. Commissioner Hamsher shared the news that our emergency manager was able to procure grant funds for air-conditioning for the Fair pavilion in the amount of \$38,000.00 and \$37,000.00 for the Berry building (old county shops). This equipment is not to be confused with the fresh air equipment required to be available to the public.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY COPIER LEASE. The Court approved the yearly copy machine lease in the office of the District Attorney from Tech Copier Systems, LLC in Baker City. MSP:

Myers/Hamsher – to approve the lease of \$171.16 per quarter plus additional per copy/color costs and signature of the contract. Approval unanimous.

MAINTENANCE/EMERGENCY PURCHASE. Judge Myers noted that purchases were made for the courthouse maintenance including a drinking fountain and toilet. These items did not require Court approval, as they were covered by the maintenance policy as replacements of existing fixtures.

ROAD RESERVE FUND. Commissioner Rowell asked for discussion of the status of the Road Reserve Fund and its decrease in recent years. He stated that the road reserve should stay level or grow, which prompted the formation of a resolution to rectify the situation. He stated that in the last 60 years, money has been taken from the account with no way to determine how it was spent. Commissioner Rowell read the proposed Resolution 22-10. The resolution included language that would give the Roadmaster decision-making authority within the Road Department’s budget. Judge Myers explained that the Court is the governing body who determines and has absolute authority over expenditures for all departments. Treasurer Julie Ellison noted that no other department head has been given the authority to make those kind of decisions about department expenditures. Judge Myers stated that he had no intention of signing this resolution today, as more information, such as viewing the original resolution, is needed. Commissioner Hamsher agreed and suggested that it be tabled until additional information is gathered. MSP: Myers/Rowell – to table the issue and gather more information before making a decision. Approval unanimous.

Adjourned – 10:19 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Stinnett
Administrative Assistant

** Please note that 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 emailing GCCourtAdmin@grantcounty-or.gov **