

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

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**March 16, 2021**

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.

9:02 am -- Call to Order. Present were Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and Sam Palmer, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Emergency Radio Infrastructure Coalition Member Steve Fletcher, Roadmaster Alan Hickerson, Road Department Office Manager Tammy Workman, Safety & Risk Manager Ryan Palmer, Community Members Millie Lysne, John Rowell and Louis Provencher. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was given by Commissioner Palmer.

**CLAIMS.** The Court had reviewed and approved claims and Extension District warrants 102-109.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Judge Myers attended the Association of Counties (AOC) Legislative Committee meeting, the Airport Committee meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the County Safety meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Keerins Hall. Community Connections of Northeast Oregon (CCNO) will be hosting a community needs assessment meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. He urged those who have input or concerns about serving the seniors and low income of Grant County to attend.

Commissioner Palmer attended the March 8<sup>th</sup> John Day City Council meeting to represent the county in regards to the policing issues affecting both the County and the City of John Day after the dissolution of the City's police department. He met with Sheriff the following day to discuss the issue. Palmer met with Economic Development to discuss current departmental projects, and with the Juvenile Department and Emergency Management about potential departmental office-space needs. Palmer reported a possible resolution to the search for adequate Juvenile Department office space, and will meet with them at 2 p.m. today. He met with Oregon Telephone Company (Ortelco) regarding broadband installation on West Bench and Marysville Road areas and scheduled another meeting date for tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Commissioner Hamsher completed and submitted the current Wolf Depredation Compensation grant. He attended the Grant County Community Advisory Team (GCCAT) meeting by phone, the Eastern Oregon Counties (EOC) meeting, the National Association of Counties (NACO) Public

Lands Committee meeting, the Health and Human Services meeting, the Western Interstate Region Public Lands steering committee meeting, the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Public Safety steering committee meeting, the AOC Natural Resource steering committee meeting, and the Veterans Affairs steering committee meeting. He listened in on the Oregon Legislative Committee meeting and a second Western Interstate Region Public Lands steering committee meeting briefing on recently passed bills. He spoke with Tucker Billman from Oregon Trail Electric Company (OTEC) on a current project and participated in Senator Wyden's virtual town hall meeting on Saturday.

**MINUTES. MSP: Myers/Palmer** -- to approve amended minutes of March 2, 2022 as presented. Corrections were made this morning before Court to two items: 1) Clarification of wolf protection status 2) Sheriff McKinley named as chair of the Community Corrections board.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT. FIRE RESISTANT FILE CABINET.** Safety and Risk Manager Ryan Palmer requested approval to purchase a fire resistant filing cabinet for the cost of \$3466.69. The same model cabinet is currently used in the office, fits ODOT documents well and can be keyed alike. The current cabinet houses files for all bridges in the county under their jurisdiction and is filled to capacity.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer** -- to approve the purchase of the file cabinet for the cost of \$3466.69. **AMATEUR RADIO COVERAGE.** Emergency Radio Infrastructure Coalition member Steve Fletcher stated that we now have amateur radio communication coverage across "pretty much" the whole of Grant County, due to in-county and out-of-county repeaters. What they don't have is someone to monitor the radios 24 hours a day; specifically, answering a call-out at night, such as a motor vehicle accident or fire. They have designed the Automatic Repeater Monitoring System (ARMS) to trigger the alarm system and alert radio operators. This requires a site high enough to "hear" all repeaters, and not too close to an existing repeater site. The site of the old Ellingson Lumber radio site was located approximately 1600 feet from the existing Eagle Peak site, and dubbed Eagle Peak 2. Roadmaster Alan Hickerson disclosed that his brother owns the property, and would like to make note of the conflict of interest. Development of the approximately 100-yard road would require 1-1 ½ days of work using pit run rock. The road serves the radio site only and not the remainder of the property. Judge Myers clarified that this site is a small corner of the property and acknowledged Hickerson's disclosure. Commissioner Hamsher asked if an easement is needed; Hickerson will look into that.

**MSP: Palmer/Myers:** To approve the road build to the Eagle Peak 2 site using pit run rock and to include an easement if needed.

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANT.** Victim Assistance Program Director Kimberly Neault requested approval to apply for the 2022-2025 Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Competitive Grant. This is a federal grant. Funding allocation amounts are not available at this time and no match funds are required.

**MSP: Hamsher/Myers--** to approve the request for the Victim Assistance grant application.

**COMMUNICATIONS SITE.** The United States Forest Service (USFS) submitted a renewal lease

agreement and management plan for the Dixie Butte Communication Site was presented for approval. The expiration date of the lease is 12/31/2040.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer** -- to approve the renewal of the lease agreement for the Dixie Butte Communication Site.

**COMMUNITY COUNSELING SOLUTIONS (CCS).** CCS requested a letter of recommendation from the County Court in support of their application for a grant to remodel their existing building.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer** – to generate and sign a letter of support for the CCS grant application.

**AIRPORT.** Grant County Regional Airport Manager Haley Walker requested the Court's signatures for the Critical Oregon Airport Relief (COAR) Grant Agreement to provide matching funds for the Runway 17/35 Widening Rehabilitation-Design Project. Walker recapped the specifics of the project: the estimated cost is \$670,000; FAA funds for 90% of the project will total \$603,000; the County is then required to provide 10% matching funds totaling \$67,000. This grant will fund 9% (\$60,300) of the matching funds, leaving a remaining 1% (\$6,700) match for the airport to fund. This will come from the airport's capital outlay funds and is scheduled to take place in the 2022 fiscal year.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer** – to approve the signing of the COAR grant as requested.

**LIBRARY.** Librarian Christine Ostberg requested approval to apply for a \$5,000 grant from the Oregon State Library to fund an intern for the Summer of 2022 Teen Internship program.

**MSP: Hamsher/Palmer** – to approve the grant application as requested to fund up to two high school applicants for the summer internship program.

**VETERANS DEPARTMENT.** To approve the contract for the speaker for the Veteran's event scheduled on March 17, 2022 at the fairgrounds. Speaker Heath Phillips will appear for the cost of \$500.

**MSP: Palmer/Hamsher** – to approve the speaker's contract as presented.

**JUSTICE COURT.** Due to the resignation of the full-time justice court clerk, Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett requested approval for the part-time assistant clerk to work additional hours of up to forty hours per week until the job position is filled. The cost will be covered by the Justice Court budget.

**MSP: Myers/Palmer** – to approve the temporary increase in hours as requested.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE.** Emergency Management Coordinator Eric Bush gave a brief update regarding current grant activity. He emailed the court members with detailed information for next year's grants. The due dates for submission for most of the grants, however, takes place before the next court date and the application to receive congressionally-delegated funds for Phase 2 of the radio project is due April 1<sup>st</sup>. He will keep the Court apprised of on-going progress with current and future grants.

9:40 -- 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 [GCCourtAdmin@grantcounty-or.gov](mailto:GCCourtAdmin@grantcounty-or.gov) \*\*\*\***