

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

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April 19, 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.

9:01 am -- Call to Order. Present were Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and John Rowell, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Reporter Neil Nisperos, Millie Lysne, Charlene Morris, Jim Boethin, Francis Preston, Kristin Walz, Alex Rice, Javan Bailey, Kimberly Lindsay, Trey Thompson, Natalie Kinion, Carol Waggoner, Christal Culley, Jacob Putney, Beth Simonsen, Kyle Sullivan and Matt Wenick. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was given by Jim Boethin.

AGENDA. MSP: Myers/Rowell - to approve the agenda with the addition of Item C - to consider possible appointment of two Compensation Board applicants.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL REPORTS.

-Myers also announced that the public hearing scheduled for May 3rd, 2023 will be moved to May 4th, 2023 at 9:00 am.

-The Court members reported on meetings and activities they participated in since the last court meeting.

RESOLUTION 23-13, COMMUNITY CORRECTION INTRAFUND TRANSFER. The request to transfer funds from Materials and Services to Capital Outlay to cover the purchase of a vehicle.

MSP: Myers/Hamsher - to approve the Community Correction intrafund transfer of \$6919 as requested. Approval unanimous.

RESOLUTION 23-14, APPROPRIATION OF UNANTICIPATED GRANT FUNDS. The Sheriff's Department received a grant from the State of Oregon for the improvement of clean air at the Berry Building (Old County Shops).

MSP: Myers/Rowell - to approve the appropriation of \$27,460 to the Sheriff's Department from Revenue to Capital Outlay as requested. Approval unanimous.

GRANT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (GSWCD). District Manager Kyle Sullivan gave the court an update on the Grant County Evacuation Corridor and Fuels Management Project. The district was awarded 9.9 million dollars over the next five years. The first phase includes coordinating with County Roadmaster Alan Hickerson and GSWCD Weed Coordinator

Matt Wenick to treat county road shoulders with equipment and herbicides in order to keep them open as evacuation corridors. The purchase of equipment for removal of smaller diameter brush and trees will be possible, as this funding source allows the purchase of equipment. They will meet with other partners to identify the optimal roads on which to perform the hazardous fuels reduction. The project will also include the treatment of 100,000 acres of fine fuels around communities. Twenty three thousand acres were treated last year around Prairie City; they will see the result of that in July. They were pleased with the response from landowners. Most of it will be treated with a helicopter. Smaller acreage may be treated with other methods. The last project would be the treatment of 2000 acres of conifers and junipers in the upper valley around the Mt. Vernon area. They would like to coordinate this with the Joint Chief's project.

EXTENSION AND 4H SERVICE DISTRICT UPDATE. East Region Director Natalie Kinion and Grant County staff, Office Coordinator Carol Waggoner, 4-H Education Program Assistant Christal Culley, Open Campus Coordinator Didgette McCracken, SNAP-Ed Coordinator Bonni Booth and Grant County Forester Jacob Putney shared the scope of their jobs, responsibilities and district activities they participated in within the last year.

NORTH FORK JOHN DAY WATERSHED COUNCIL UPDATE. Executive Director Kristin Walz and Project Managers Alex Rice and Javan Bailey presented the Court with an update on the activities of the last year. Walz gave an annual update to the court. Their operating area is the north fork area of the county. They are a non-governmental, non-profit and non-regulatory agency. They receive money from these three entities: federal (61%), state (35%) and private funding (4%). Walz, Rice and Bailey shared information on various projects and accomplishments that took place in 2022-23.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR QUARTERLY UPDATE. Public Health Administrator Kimberly Lindsay updated the Court on recent changes within the department. These include the hiring of Health Department Manager Trey Thompson. Thompson returns to Grant County after graduating from the University of Oregon and holding different positions across the country within the health field. Lindsay noted that he worked at the Mayo Clinic. She also offered her resignation as administrator, and recommended the Court hire Nurse-Practitioner Jessica Winegar to fill that position. Lindsay's resignation date was set for April 30th and Winegar's hire date was set for May 1st, 2023. Lindsay gave further general updates to the Court. *MSP: Myers/Hamsher - to accept the resignation of Kimberly Lindsay as Public Health Administrator effective April 30th, 2023 and to approve the hiring of Jessica Winegar to fill the position effective May 1st, 2023. Approval unanimous.*

RISKMAP FLOOD MAPPING PROJECT. Planning Department Director Shannon Springer brought to the Court information regarding the county's flood mapping process, RiskMAP. She explained that "The county embarked on the RiskMAP process in early 2019. This process is intended to evaluate multiple hazards around the county, but the primary outcome will be updated Flood Insurance Risk Maps (FIRM's). These maps are what all flood managers use for regulatory

purposes within their jurisdictions.” At present, the County has areas of proposed study along major waterways. Because of the recent FEMA Biological Opinion which will potentially create severe restrictions in flood zone areas across the country, Springer felt that it was appropriate that the Court, rather than the Planning Department, decide whether to continue with the mapping process. In her letter to the Court, Springer stated: “In light of the FEMA Biological Opinion and the proposed rule changes, it may be sensible to encourage as little additional flood mapping as possible. I have found that once an area is mapped under FEMA’s process it is nearly impossible to get it removed. The best example is Bates. Bates was originally mapped when there was a mill and town in that location. Now there is a remnant 2 mile section of regulatory flood zone in an area where there is little development anymore and little chance for development.” She cautioned that the balance between safety and regulation must be considered. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell - to approve a hold on further flood mapping within the County. Approval unanimous.*

OBLIGATION OF TITLE II FUNDS. Title II Administrator Beth Simonsen requested that the Court obligate the following projects under Title II moneys for the 2022-23 funds. Simonsen advertised the Title II projects and comment period for 45 days with no comment. The proposed projects are: Firewise Communities program \$25,000; Search and Rescue, \$30,165.79; Community Wildfire Protection Plan \$25,000. She asked the Court to obligate the Title II funds accordingly, and will return to Court to initiate the project. *MSP: Myers/Rowell - to obligate the projects for the Title II funds, as requested. Approval unanimous.*

LIBRARY GRANT. Librarian Christine Ostberg requested permission to pursue an Eastern Oregon Coordinate Care Organization (eocco) grant. “This is a grant for \$3,000, I am buying new medical and health books for both the adults and children and then I am going to use \$1,000. Of this money to help SNAP-ed to be at my summer reading programs. I will not receive the money until next September 2023, so I will be using the money in the summer of 2024. No motion was made, but the County expressed their support of the grant.

REVISIT FAIRGROUNDS REQUEST TO WAIVE THE BUILDING PERMIT FEE. During the April 5th court meeting, the motion to waive the fee died. Commissioner Hamsher asked that the issue be revisited during the April 19th session, and gave a strong argument in favor of waiving the fee. Judge Myers countered with his concerns about setting a precedent that would have no stopping point. He confirmed with Winegar that funds for the permit were available within her grant. Hamsher argued that the \$1000 going to the state could be spent on the Fair projects instead. The County’s portion of the fee would be approximately \$100. *MSP: Hamsher - to waive the Fairground’s building permit fee. The motion died. Ayes - Hamsher/Nays - Myers, Rowell*

COMPENSATION BOARD APPLICATIONS. The Court considered two applications for the openings on the Compensation Board, Athena Moline and Paula Bartley. Both were appointed

with terms to expire, 6/30/2024 and 6/30/2023, respectively. *MSP: Myers/Hamsher - to appoint Athena Moline to position CMP3 with a term expiration of 6/30/2024 and Paula Bartley to position CMP2 with a term expiration of 6/30/2023.*

11:37 am Adjourn

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 *******