

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

*Access the County Court Agenda and approved Minutes under Grant County Court at
<https://grantcountyoregon.net/AgendaCenter>*

**May 3rd, 2023 - Public Hearing for the formation of the Road Service District
Regular Meeting of the County Court and Executive Session**

Pursuant to notice made to the newspaper of general circulation throughout Grant County, the radio station, county website, and e-mail distribution list, a Public Hearing and 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 Commissioners Jim Hamsher and John Rowell, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Reporter Neil Nisperos, Judy Kerr, Sam Palmer, Cody Wilson, Beth Simonsen, Kelly Workman, Tammy Workman, Alan Hickerson, Mike Springer, Ryan Palmer, Frances Preston, Malheur National Forest – Ann Nesun, Sally Christianson, Colleen Malaney, Jessi Benson.

AGENDA. The agenda was reviewed. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell: to approve the agenda for May 3rd, 2023 as presented. Approval unanimous.*

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FORMATION OF THE GRANT COUNTY ROAD SERVICE DISTRICT (RSD).

9:05 Commissioner Hamsher announced that the Public Hearing was open for comment. Sam Palmer stated that he very much supported the formation of the Road Service District.

Cody Wilson expressed his frustration with online access to survey records and his ability to get help from county staff. Commissioner Rowell asked to address the issue later when they could access a computer, but Surveyor Mike Springer invited Wilson to follow him to his office where they could trouble-shoot the issue.

9:11 am Enter Kyle Sullivan
 Enter Tory Stinnett

Judy Kerr stated that she fully supports the RSD formation and thanked Commissioner Hamsher. Francis Preston stated that her expectation as a taxpayer is that the money be used on the roads. Rowell assured court attendees that all Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funds will be used as they have in the past. Hamsher read Order #2023-03 in full, including specific instructions in proceeding, “Whereas the required number of requests seeking an election were

not received at or before the date and time, therefore an election is not required under ORS 198.810.” Hamsher noted that the Road Service District does not impose any taxes, nor can it ever, unless put out to a vote of the people. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell -- to approve Order #2023-03. The order will not be signed until the close of the Public Hearing tomorrow, May 4th. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Announcements and special events were reported by Commissioner Rowell and Commissioner Hamsher.

Commissioner Rowell’s activities included:

- 4/22 - a Town Hall meeting at Prairie City with Senator Merkley
- 4/26 - a Public Safety meeting with the Sheriff and Acting John Day City Manager
- 4/28 - Road Show in Ontario with the Ways and Means Committee
- 5/03 - a hearing in Pendleton regarding the Forest Service 21” rule

Commissioner Hamsher’s activities included:

- 5/03 – a housing strategies feedback session
- NACO Public Lands Steering Committee meeting
- Local Government Advisory Council meeting on Health And Human Services
- Blues Intergovernmental Council Conveners meeting
- Town Hall meeting with Senator Merkley
- Land Conservation and Development Committee (LCDC) committee meeting
- appointment to the Local Officials Advisory Committee, which is of note because there is no other representation from this side of the state
- Biological Opinion meeting pertaining to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- meeting of the National Marines Fisheries
- met with several department heads.

He noted that the Oregon State Fire Marshall awarded a full grant to Grant County and thanked Kyle Sullivan and Tory Stinnett for their efforts in making this happen.

ROAD DEPARTMENT.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE - ROLLER. Roadmaster Alan Hickerson and Mechanic Joe Bennett presented the request for the purchase of equipment: a used 2020 Caterpillar CS56B roller with 1,116 hours. They would like to trade a 2014 Volvo roller purchased in 2017 for \$86,000, which Western States will credit as a \$70,000 trade-in. The purchase price of the used Cat is \$128,318.65. After trade-in, the cost to the department will be \$58,318.65, taken out of Capital Outlay – Heavy Equipment 5-40-0009. Bennett detailed the rationale for the trade-in and purchase, noting that the company of manufacture no longer exists. The Volvo has had on-going service issues. The model was described by the service tech for Volvo as a problematic machine. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell -- to approve the trade-in of the 2014 Volvo roller and purchase of the replacement 2020 Caterpillar CS56B machine for \$58,318.65. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

RIDING LAWNMOWER. Hickerson asked the Court to approve the purchase of a riding lawnmower. He proposed that the Road Department purchase the mower, have use of it and pay for the maintenance of it. County Maintenance would maintain the mowed areas around

the county shop and use it for other county areas to be mowed, as needed. He presented two competitive quotes from Frontier Equipment and John Day Rents; Frontier's lower bid was \$3229.00. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell -- to approve the purchase of the riding lawnmower from Frontier Equipment for \$3229.00. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

ROAD SHOP EXHAUST FAN. Safety Manager Ryan Palmer requested approval of the purchase of an exhaust fan for the Road Department shop. The current fan at 800 cfm is inadequate for the shop. The replacement fan would be 21,100 cfm, purchased from Global Industrial for \$1100.62. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell -- to approve the purchase of the exhaust fan for the road department shop with a cfm of 21,100 from Global Industrial for \$1100.62. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

GRANT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD). District Manager Kyle Sullivan spoke about the Global Information System (GIS) used and operated within the SWCD and used by County offices in multiple instances. These include the Planning Department and Assessor's Office for address and mapping needs, the Road Department for a map as a grant document, for Title III funds for the Sheriff and Emergency Management departments and for a crisis situation, Economic Development for zoning maps, and the Clerk for online records for the public. County users felt it appropriate to enter into an agreement for the use of the services. Projects would be handled either hourly, or per project quote and invoiced quarterly. The cost is the responsibility of the department. This agreement would be "tested" through June 30, 2024 and reevaluated. Shannon Springer explained that skills to operate the program require a higher level of expertise than that employed by the average user. If the county does not have a mechanism to utilize this technology, at some point in time we will be pretty "far behind the ball" and urged the county to stay as current as possible in their use of this technology. Tory Stinnett commended the past generosity of the SWCD. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell - to approve the agreement for the services of the SWCD using GIS technology for county department projects as needed, pending County Counsel's approval of the agreement. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

10:00 am -- Enter Julie Ellison and Malheur National Forest presenters

MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST (MNF) UPDATE. Malheur National Forest staff Ann Nesun, Sally Christianson, Colleen Malaney, Jessi Benson appeared to share an update with the Court. Colleen Malaney, Partnership Coordinator of MNF, outlined nine projects they have identified for Title II funds. Funds include this year's \$515,000 in addition to a carryover of last year's \$300,000. She gave the Court a brief rundown of nine projects, including replacement of fences, managing fences to minimize cow damage, work with a Tech summer youth crew, treating riparian area and treating 100 acres of weeds around Monument, among other projects. The total ask is \$344,858 for the year.

10:23 am -- Enter Mindy Winegar

FAIRGROUNDS PROJECT UPDATES. PICNIC TABLE. Both the Prairie City RV park (24) and the Fairgrounds (10) need new picnic tables. Winegar recommended the \$35,550 Uline quote due

to optimal delivery time and minimal difference in the quotes. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell - to approve the purchase of picnic tables for \$35,550 from Uline. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*
DUSTY'S SHOP. Winegar outlined the need for a new shop door on Dusty's Shop. She noted the theft of Dewalt tools last year at fair. The cost would be split between the Fairgrounds and the RV Park. She recommends the bid from Nehi at \$2675. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell - to approve the purchase of the shop/garage door through Nehi for the cost of \$2675. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

RE-BID PICNIC SHELTER. The Fairgrounds received three bids for the Picnic Shelter construction. These were Mike Hansen Construction at \$89,000, Gyllenburg Construction at \$199,000 and Global Construction at \$139,000. Low bidder Mike Hansen was contacted to verify the amount of his bid. Winegar noted that there will be a change order to add ramp to the stage. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell -to award the bid of the picnic shelter and stage to Mike Hansen Construction for \$89,000. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

WASHRACK FOR 4H ANIMALS. The City of Prairie City ran a camera to help diagnose issues with the wash-rack at the Fairgrounds animal barn. It is presumed that kids have opened the grate and thrown softball size rocks into it. A smaller grid will be installed and bolted down. Winegar noted that the pad for the wash-rack has deteriorated and hopes to be able to replace that, also.

KEERINS HALL. The hall has tested positive for the presence of asbestos. Engineer Levi Voigt will be sending a Request for Proposal (RFP) out for asbestos abatement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION. At this time, Commissioner Hamsher announced that an executive session is being held pursuant to ORS 192.550(2)(h) and that representatives of the news media and designated staff would be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience are asked to leave the room. He stated that members of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session except to state the general subject of the session, as previously announced. No decision may be made in executive session. At the end of the session, members of the audience will be welcomed back into the courtroom for the return to regular session

10:45 am – Executive Session convened

Present were Commissioners Jim Hamsher and John Rowell, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Human Resources Director Laurie Cates, Treasurer Julie Ellison and Reporter Neil Nisperos. Commissioner Hamsher opened the Executive Session by stating that the session was being held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h), to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

10:54 am – Executive Session adjourned

10:55 am -- The Regular Meeting of the County Court is reconvened. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell – to request that in its next meeting, the budget committee set aside \$300,000 for potential litigation. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

VICTIM ASSISTANCE TRAINING REQUEST. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell - to approve the request for Victim Assistance Director's training at the cost of \$366. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell - to approve the appointment of Terry Brandsma to the Road Advisory Board from 5/03/2023 to 6/30/2025. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. *MSP: Hamsher/Rowell - to approve the installation of electrical power from the Sheriff's Office to the courthouse with a bid from North River Electric in the amount of \$3780. Hamsher- aye, Rowell- aye.*

.

11:04 am -- Meeting 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 ******