

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

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**August 17, 2022 – 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.

9:00 am -- Call to Order. Present were Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and Sam Palmer, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Reporter Steven Mitchell, Safety Manager Ryan Palmer, Commissioner-elect John Rowell, Emergency Management Coordinator Eric Bush, Airport Manager Haley Walker, Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Kyle Sullivan and Weed Control Coordinator Matt Wenick, USFS Forest Supervisor Craig Trulock, USFS Partnership Coordinator Colleen Malaney, Millie Lysne, Jessi Brunson and Teena Ballard. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag.

**AGENDA.** MSP: Hamsher/Palmer -- to approve the agenda as presented. Approval unanimous.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Judge Myers attended an Airport Commission meeting and performed a wedding on August 8<sup>th</sup>, attended the Grant County Fair on August 10<sup>th</sup> and congratulated Fair Manager Mindy Winegar, Maintenance Specialist Dusty Williams, the Fair Board and volunteers for a successful fair and a great parade. He performed a wedding on August 11<sup>th</sup>, attended the Fair Parade on the 13<sup>th</sup>, has a performance review scheduled for tomorrow, will attend an Easter Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) meeting via Zoom and will perform a wedding on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and sign claims on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Palmer attended a meeting with the Employment Department, the Wheeler family fundraiser, and attended Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) meetings with Emergency Management Coordinator Eric Bush. Palmer spent ten days in Ukraine. He attended the Fair on Saturday and thanks the Fair crew for a job well done.

Commissioner Hamsher attended meetings with the US Treasury Department, National Association of Counties (NACo), and a White House briefing call. He attended the Fair on Wednesday through Saturday, and commented on a great auction and the generosity of the buyers. He thanked all who support our livestock auction. He had a discussion with gubernatorial candidate Christine Drazen and with Paulette Pyle of Senator Cliff Bentz' office. Representatives from ODOT gave a presentation about handicap access, speed signage and crossings in Prairie City.

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**MINUTES.** MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve the minutes of August 3<sup>rd</sup> with a correction to Commissioner Hamsher’s announcements. Approval unanimous.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT GRANT. TELEVISION PURCHASE.** Safety Manager Ryan Palmer requested the purchase of a television and mounting bracket to be used for classes and training purposes. The current equipment resolution is poor and does not allow information on the screen to be readable. MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve the purchase of a television for the conference room at the Road Department. Approval unanimous. **WHEELED EXCAVATOR.** The Road Department requested permission for the purchase of a CAT M318 wheeled excavator. They have rented equipment in the past few years that does similar tasks, but does not do a quality job. This is a new model; Palmer explained that there are not many available, and definitely not many in the area. He added that it has a thumb and they will be getting a bucket and mulcher. The cost before the end of the year is \$399,000. Attachment costs are not known due to sourcing issues. They will use the balance of the Service Transportation grant (STGB Fund) and get .94 on the dollar compared to .91 if purchased before the end of the year. MSP: Palmer/Hamsher – to approve the purchase of the CAT M318 wheeled excavator. Approval unanimous. **ROAD VACATION.** Palmer talked about the vacation of a portion of the Old Bates Highway. Owner George Winegar has signed the agreement to vacate. MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve the completion of the process to vacate the remaining portion of the Old Bates Highway, contingent upon approval of County Counsel. Approval unanimous.

**OMNITECH INDUSTRIAL AIR SCRUBBERS.** The Oregon Department of Human Services obtained the air scrubbers during the COVID quarantine and was not able to complete their distribution during that time. Judge Myers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to accept ownership and which defines allowable usage of the machines. They are required to be deployed as a designated Clean Air Center, i.e., for public use in a building open to the public. Emergency Management Coordinator Eric Bush procured twelve machines to be used within the county for cleaner air spaces when wildfire smoke and other poor air quality events occur. The state will provide upgraded filters and replacement of filters as needed. They machines are valued at \$1700 per unit; the filters are valued at \$180 per unit.

**COUNTY COURT LIVE-STREAM PLATFORM.** Judge Myers described equipment requested for use in the County Court in order to upgrade the current recording/broadcasting system. The request is for a Webex subscription at \$162 per year and an “OWL” speaker/recorder/camera for \$999. Commissioner Palmer noted the high quality performance of the same speaker/camera used at the Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) meetings he attends. MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to approve the streaming subscription and purchase of the speaker/microphone/camera to facilitate the live-streaming of County Court meetings. Approval unanimous.

**PSILOCYBIN HEARING.** The second reading of Ordinance #2022-01 was performed by Judge Myers. This ordinance prohibits the manufacture or distribution of psilocybin products within the unincorporated areas of Grant County. The state has already passed the legal use of

psilocybin products, but has given the counties the ability to opt out. He opened the meeting for public discussion. MSP: Hamsher/Palmer -- to approve Ordinance #2022-01, circulate for signature and submit to the clerk's office for its appearance on the November 8<sup>th</sup> ballot.

**AIRPORT RUNWAY CONTRACTS.** Airport Manager Haley Walker brought a revised contract for T-O Engineers #17-35 (Phase I – Design) Widen and Reconstruct Runway project. The revision increased grant funds from \$502,420.00 to \$656,000.00. Unused monies will allow the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to roll those funds over into the construction project. She requested that future signatures related to this project be reviewed and signed by the judge without waiting for county court dates. MSP: Palmer/Hamsher – to approve the documents and circulate for signature and to allow Judge Myers to review and sign future documents related to this project as may be required by time constraints. MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to include FAA Form 5100-129, Construction Project Final Acceptance for the Airport Improvement Program Sponsor Certification, in the previous motion for approval, signature and signature by Judge Myers as needed during the duration of the project.

**RESOLUTION 22-29.** Treasurer Julie Ellison requested the amendment of the Veteran's Services budget to reflect the exact expense for 2022-23 after the adoption of the County budget. The General Fund was credited and Veteran's Service debited in the amount of \$1586. MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve Resolution 22-29 and circulate for signature.

**TITLE II PROJECTS/ NORTHEAST OREGON FOREST RAC.** USFS Forest Supervisor Craig Trulock and Partnership Coordinator Colleen Malaney presented Title II project proposals for Grant County with 2.3 million dollars of funding. He noted that 1.4 million dollars of projects have been proposed; only a portion of the available money will be used if they complete all projects. Commissioner Hamsher asked if there is the opportunity to add more projects. Trulock replied that there was time and that without a Resource Advisory Council (RAC) quorum they have been behind on the process. Hamsher talked about the county adjusting the percentage rates allocated to Title I, II and III. Grant Soil & Water Conservation District Manager Kyle Sullivan and Weed Control Coordinator Matt Wenick were present to add to the discussion about shared projects with the Forest Service. The County's list of prioritized projects will be sent to the RAC in September; the RAC will forward those recommendations to the Forest Supervisor by October 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.

10:05 am Adjourned. MSP: Hamsher/Palmer -- to adjourn the meeting of August 17<sup>th</sup>.

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) \*\*\*\***