

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

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<https://grantcountyorregon.net/AgendaCenter>*

**September 6th, 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.

**CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioner Jim Hamsher, Commissioner John Rowell, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Reporter Neil Nisperos, Seniors Program Director Misty Palmer, Judy Kerr, Frances Preston, John Morris, Millie Lysne, Tammy Workman and Alan Hickerson.

**HAND CHECKS.** The Court approved outside of normal claims day, checks # 67093, 67094 and 67214.

**AGENDA.** Review of the agenda for September 6th, 2023.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher -- to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the change of next court meeting from September 20<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Approval unanimous.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.** The Judge and Commissioners attended or participated in these events:  
JUDGE MYERS – August 16<sup>th</sup> - Ride 4 Life to Baker City; 18<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast with Oregon Communities Foundation; 25<sup>th</sup> – meeting with Lynn Findley; 26<sup>th</sup> – performed a wedding ceremony at Magone Lake; September 9<sup>th</sup> – performed a wedding ceremony in John Day; 11<sup>th</sup> – Mental Health Advisory Board Meeting at 11 am; 12<sup>th</sup> – Safety meeting at 9 am; 19<sup>th</sup> – Attend PERS meeting in Burns.

COMMISSIONER ROWELL – August 16<sup>th</sup> – Senior Citizens Advisory Council meeting; Oregon Water Resources Department presentation at Seneca School; 17<sup>th</sup> – meet with Ford Family Foundation representatives and Director Tory Stinnett at the Economic Development office; 22<sup>nd</sup> – North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJWC) at Bates to observe test hole drilling to enhance fish passage; Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) meeting; 23<sup>rd</sup> – KJDY/Elkhorn Media guest on Coffee Time to talk about the Road Service District (RSD) ballot measure; 24<sup>th</sup> – Senator Cliff Bentz’s Town Hall meeting; Grant County Community Action Team (GC CAT) meeting; 25<sup>th</sup> – Representative Owens and Senator Findley’s Town Hall meeting; 29<sup>th</sup> – OWRD meeting in Burns regarding water use limits; September 1<sup>st</sup> – Oregon Broadband Office online meeting to discuss fiber optic projects.

COMMISSIONER HAMSHER - Attended Congressman Cliff Bentz's town hall, Senator Lynn Findley's meet and greet with Representative Mark Owens; a Business Oregon meeting; a local Government Advisory Meeting on health; Community Advisory Council meeting in Long Creek and a dinner meeting with the Ford Foundation to discuss possible plans for Grant County .

**MINUTES.** To approve the minutes of August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

*MSP: Myers/Rowell – to approve the minutes of August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as presented. Approval unanimous.*

**BALLOT MEASURE APPROVAL.** The Court's submission of the SEL801 Ballot Measure to approve the Grant County Road Service District Order 2023-01 for its formation and services was approved by the Court.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the submission of the ballot measure as written to be submitted for voter approval on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Approval unanimous.*

**BLUE MTN. COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGREEMENT.** The Court has supported the college's satellite facility in Grant County for approximately 24 years. The County's payment is based on a percentage of actual expenditures and administrative overhead for the satellite facility.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the Contracted Out of District Agreement with Blue Mountain Community College for 2023-24. Approval unanimous.*

**GRANT-HARNEY JAIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.** The agreement stipulates the conditions under which the department will house Harney County Adults in Custody (AICs) as needed and determined by the availability of space in the jail while Harney County seeks funding to upgrade their facility.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the agreement to house Harney County AICs as needed in the Grant County Jail. Approval unanimous.*

**ROAD DEPARTMENT. LONG CREEK SHOP.** The bid award is for the Long Creek truck shop; not the Fox shop as listed on the agenda. The engineer's estimate for cost was \$278,000.00. The department received a single bid from Decker Construction of La Grande for \$222,000.00. Hickerson asked the Court to approve the bid award.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher - To accept the bid from Decker Construction for \$222,000 and issue a notice to proceed upon confirmation from Joe Hitz of Sisul Engineering.*

**RALLY NETWORK.** Hickerson explained that the County Shops currently run a satellite system for internet access and have been urged by the Education Service District to install a high-speed internet service. The quote from Rally Network for high-speed installation was \$6200 and a monthly cost of \$125. It will be taken out of the telephone line budget, if approved.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the cost of construction and the monthly rate to upgrade to high-speed internet service provided by Rally Network. Approval unanimous.*

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**Resolution 23-40 - Library Intrafund Transfer.** To request the transfer of unused Personnel Services funds in the amount of \$580.00 to Materials and Services.

*MSP: Myers/Rowell – to approve the transfer of funds as requested. Approval unanimous.*

**Resolution 23-41 - Fair Intrafund Transfer.** To request the transfer of Business Oregon Grant funds from the Infrastructure Grant to a new Capital Outlay line in the amount of \$277,777.00.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the transfer of funds as requested. Approval unanimous.*

**Resolution 23-42 Contingency to Elections.** To request the transfer of Elections funds not included in the budget before adoption from Contingency to Elections Capital Outlay in the amount of \$9,733.00.

*MSP: Myers/Rowell – to approve the transfer of funds as requested. Approval unanimous.*

**RESOLUTION 23-43 – Appropriating Unexpected Funds.** The Education Service District (ESD) has coordinated the funding of a School Resource Officer (SRO) for five participating schools in the county at the cost of \$120,000.00. These funds were received to Revenue and transferred to Materials & Services and Personnel Services.

*MSP: Myers/Rowell – to approve the receipt and appropriation of funds as described. Approval unanimous.*

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS.** Sergeant Josh Wolf presented Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) #6531 between the state of Oregon and Grant County to provide correctional services within the requirements as authorized by ORS 423.475 to 423.565 for the term of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the IGA as presented and affix signature. Approval unanimous.*

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANT.** A grant through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) was signed in 2022, but was not formally approved by the Court or recorded. A change in personnel contributed to the oversight in the grant’s approval. Director Kaylie Clark would like to formalize the approval and submit to be recorded. The grant has been awarded, although no funds have yet been received.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the submission and receipt of the grant and submit for recording. Approval unanimous.*

**SENIORS PROGRAM REQUESTS. LAPTOP PURCHASE.** Director Misty Palmer’s current laptop is in need of replacement. The Education Service District’s (ESD) quote of \$885.00 is available in her budget and would come out of capital outlay.

*MSP: Hamsher/Rowell – to approve the purchase of the laptop for the Seniors Program department. Approval unanimous.*

**OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY GRANT.** Palmer requested the Court’s approval for her application for a \$15,000 grant with funds targeted to decrease isolation and increase connection for seniors in rural areas. She would like to see these funds used to assist the

Dayville Senior Center who serve 35-50 seniors each time with limited funding, as well as the other centers.

*MSP: Hamsher/Rowell – to approve the purchase of the laptop for the Seniors Program department. Approval unanimous.*

**SENATE BILL 762 WILDFIRE MAPPING.** Planning Director Shannon Springer brought Senate Bill 762 to the attention of the Court. The bill is in response to the recent fire activity in the state with direction that a fire risk map be created across the state. Three categories - low, moderate and high – would designate an area’s risk. Four categories are involved in that rating: weather, topography, climate and vegetation. She said that the first opportunity for comment would be for county employees only; the next round would be open to public comment. The AOC meeting for that will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> in Pendleton.

**SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL.** Board member Mark Webb presented the Court with a request for policy change to include the Senior Center part-time cooks in the longevity pay that is available to other county employees. In response to Commissioner Rowell’s admonition to look at all the circumstances before taking action, Webb countered that it is a matter of fair and equitable treatment. Myers suggested there may be other options, such as an increase in pay. Treasurer Ellison defined non-benefited employees as knowing the position when they accept the position. She does not feel that it is equitable for an employee who works 588 hours a year to receive the same amount of pay as those who work 2080 hours a year. The 2080 hour position receives a 5 or 6 cent an hour increase in comparison to the 588 hour a year additional longevity pay of 7 or 8 dollars an hour. Myers said that the County Court would commit to pursue the topic and look at the possibilities.

*MSR: Myers/Hamsher – to table the discussion and bring it back to the table in a reasonable amount of time. Approval unanimous.*

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY INTO FIRE DISTRICT.**

10:18 am Commence hearing

Myers noted that no objection has been made to the request for annexation of property belonging to Corey W. Kovash, described as Township 14S, Range 30E, Section 25, Tax Lot Number 3006. The annexation has been approved by the Mt. Vernon Fire District. The Court moved to approve the annexation of the property.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to close the hearing. Approval unanimous.*

10:24 am Hearing closed

*MSP:Myers/Hamsher – to approve the property described as Township 14S, Range 30E, Section 25, Tax Lot Number 3006 and owned by Corey W. Kovash to be annexed into the Mt. Vernon Fire Protection District. Approval unanimous.*

**CHANGE IN NEXT MEETING DATE.** The Court announced that the next Court meeting would be moved from September 20<sup>th</sup> to September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am. Two commissioners will be attending the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) Economic Summit on the regular court date of Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>.

*MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to move the next court meeting from Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup>, due to the OTEC Economic Summit. Approval unanimous.*

10:30 am Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Stinnett  
Administrative Assistant

***- Please note: court minutes are a summary of the court proceedings. An audio recording is available, after approval of the minutes, by contacting the County Court at 541-575-0059.***