

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

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September 7th, 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, Kyle Sullivan, Eric Julsrud, Mike Springer, John Rowell, Millie Lysne and Jim Boethin. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was given by Jim Boethin.

HAND CHECKS. The Court approved outside of normal claims day check #64380.

WARRANTS. The Court approved warrant #49.

AGENDA. Approval of agenda. MSP: Myers/Palmer– to approve the agenda as presented.

MINUTES. Approval of minutes. MSP: Myers/Palmers/Hamsher – to approve the minutes of August 17th, 2022 as presented. Approval unanimous.

9:04 am - John Morris entered

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Judge Myers performed a wedding on August 23rd. He attended a Drought Committee meeting with five of our Eastern Oregon county representatives on the 7th; a Library Board meeting on the 8th; a Mental Health Advisory Board meeting on the 15th and traveled to a District 1 meeting in Ontario on the 19th. The next court meeting will be held on September 21st.

Commissioner Palmer attended a Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) Convener’s Meeting via Zoom; an Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) meeting; a BIC Public Engagement Committee meeting representing Grant County along with other counties objecting to the Forest Plan. He also attended the Eastern Oregon Economic Summit put on by OTEC at Anthony Lakes.

Commissioner Hamsher attended the OTEC Eastern Oregon Summit; a White House briefing call; a National Association of Counties (NACo) Public Lands Steering Committee meeting; visited with several county department heads and was briefed about the Crockett Knob fire.

Judge Myers noted that he performed a total of five weddings in the month of August.

RESOLUTION 22-30 - TO VACATE COUNTY ROAD 72. Property owner George Winegar petitioned the Court to consider vacating roughly 260 feet of the west end of County Road 72. Winegar is the sole owner of 100% of the property abutting the road. Roadmaster Alan Hickerson agreed that no other landowners are involved; it is a dead end road; there is no public or private land that will lose property right access and that the vacation is in the public's best interest. MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve Resolution 22-30 to vacate County Road 72 as petitioned by the landowner and recommended by the Road Department.

OLD COUNTY SHOPS INTERNET INSTALLATION. Emergency Management Coordinator Eric Bush recommended that the Court authorize the installation and subscription for broadband services at 323 S. Humbolt, the location of the shop being renovated for the Emergency Management office. The cost of installation is a one-time fee of \$150. The monthly on-going subscription will be \$150 per month for 100mb per second. MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the installation of internet services at the Old County Shop buildings at 323 S. Humbolt. Approved unanimously.

RE-PLAT OF PROPERTIES. County Surveyor Mike Springer requested Court signatures on a re-plat of properties in the Canyon Mountain Heights subdivision. It involved combining a couple of lots and resolving an issue of encroachment between landowners. MSP: Myers/Palmer/Hamsher – to approve the re-platting of properties in the Canyon Mountain Heights subdivision as described. Approved unanimously.

FOREST SERVICE SRS FUNDS/TITLE PROJECTS. The Court will review the proposed projects and prioritize their recommendations for submission to the Resource Advisory Council (RAC). RAC then reviews the Court's recommendations and submits their own recommendations to the United States Forest Service (USFS). The Court has been locked into an 80/18/2 percent split for Title I, II and III for some years, but has the opportunity to revise those amounts with a new mandate by the federal government. Myers' recommended that the Court go back to 85/8/7 percent for Title I, II and III, respectively. The County would then control and prioritize each of those projects, and track the 45 day comment periods. Commissioner Hamsher noted that in the past we have had to dip into the General Fund if we exceeded the budget for forest patrol; this will allow us to use Title monies for that. It allows the County more control of some of the monies otherwise controlled by the Federal government. MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve the proposed 85/8/7 allocation of Title monies and complete and submit the designated forms. Approval unanimous.

UPDATE ON HOUR/WAGE REDUCTION EFFECT ON THE BUDGET. Courthouse personnel requested an update on the budget status and reduction of hours and wages. The Treasurer and Court were asked to share current information. Commissioner Hamsher stated that NACO published projections of county allotments and that tribal funds were already allocated and county funds were to follow. He stated that the Federal Aid monies must be available in the portal by September 30th, 2022. He would like to reconvene the budget committee and restore full-time hours to County employees who experienced the reduction in hours and corresponding wages. Hamsher stated that Grant County is slated to receive 1.7 million dollars for this and the following year, with no "sunset" stipulated as to a spending deadline. Myers

added that if everything falls into place we will be working at 32 hours per week through September 30th and back to 40 hours per week during the October pay period. Commissioner Palmer stated that when the Court receives notification of funds, they will notify personnel by email and reconvene the budget committee. Hamsher added that these monies are in addition to what we will receive through Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) monies.

9:40 am - Shannon Springer, Trista Strong, Cindy Tirico, Mike McManus, Julie Ellison and Stephanie Williams entered

Christina Ritner questioned why a hard date can't be set to restore full-time hours when we know the money will be available. Palmer replied that the budget committee was not willing to support any action without the money in hand. Treasurer Julie Ellison said, when questioned about the dollar amount of savings through the reduction of hours, that it was \$21,500 per month and \$43,000 for the last two months. Employees noted that there have been other areas of savings, such as positions that have remained unfilled while waiting for new hires. Employees asked to be notified of changes in circumstances as they happen, rather than waiting for meetings to be updated. Myers affirmed that the Court would do so.

9: 40 am – Meeting was 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 ******