

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

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October 4th, 2023

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.

9:02 am -- Call to Order. Present were Judge Scott Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and John Rowell, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Reporter Bennett Hall, Judy Kerr, Frances Preston, Levi Preston, Millie Lysne, Todd McKinley, Ron Phillips, Heart of Grant County Director Beth Simonsen, Advocate Rayme Lacey, Victim Assistance Director Kaylie Clark and Clerk Dorothy Blood. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was given by Kelly Workman.

AGENDA. *MSP: Myers/Hamsher -- to amend the agenda of October 4th, 2023 to include the approval of the minutes for September 14th and 21st, 2023 and to remove Agenda Item B. Emergency Management Structural Survey request by Eric Bush.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS. The Judge and Commissioners attended or participated in these events:
JUDGE MYERS 26th - DEQ meeting with partners to work on Total Maximum Daily Loads; Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) & Oregon Wildfire Hazard Map meeting in Pendleton last Friday; 3rd - Monument Senior Center for kitchen inspection; Long Creek Road Department shop inspection; meal delivery to seniors.

COMMISSIONER ROWELL 21st - Blue Mountain Forest Partners Collaborative: prescribed burn update and old growth study; 23rd - Monument Buckaroo Festival; 25th - Southeast Area Commission on Transportation meeting; 25th - American Legion lunch to meet the new National Commander Daniel Seehafer; 25th - Trip with Roadmaster Alan Hickerson to observe the use of the new roadside tree grinder/brush remover; 26th - John Day City Council Meeting as a citizen; 29th - AOCs District 1 meeting online; 29th - Senate Bill 80 (SB80) Oregon Wildfire Hazard Map meeting.

COMMISSIONER HAMSHER Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) District 1 meeting; an AOC Health and Human Services gathering of commissioners across the state to discuss a legislative fix for Measure 110; Business Oregon meeting to discuss county economic development and the recent SEACT meeting for statewide transportation issues and information.

MINUTES. Approve the minutes of September 21st as presented.

MSP - Myers/Rowell: to approve the minutes of September 21st as presented. Approval unanimous.

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 14th were approved.

MSP: Myers/Hamsher - to approve the minutes of September 14th as presented. Approval unanimous.

SHERIFF OFFICE COMPUTER PURCHASE. Sheriff Todd McKinley requested the purchase of a desktop computer to replace the primary front desk computer, which failed.

MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the purchase of the new computer with a quote from the Educational Service District (ESD) in the amount of \$955.00.

HEART OF GRANT COUNTY. Director Beth Simonsen noted that October is Domestic Violence awareness month. Advocate Rayme Lacey, Victim Assistance Director Kaylie Clark and Victim Intervention Specialist Dorothy Blood were present. Since the last report there has been a slight decrease in cases but an increase in sexual violence. They are serving some seniors. Dementia, mental health issues, alcoholism and drug abuse contribute to the issue. Victim Assistance Director Kaylie Clark noted that they are forced to take victims requiring medical intervention and documentation to Bend for those services and they welcome the implementation of local services. There are local candidates working on the qualifications to provide services to sexual abuse victims. Heart of Grant County and Victim Assistance are not mandatory reporters and can refer clients to other services. They welcome donations, including furniture. The Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART) meets quarterly. Clark said they are currently working on a campaign to spread awareness of domestic violence. Dorothy Blood said in recent training she learned that it takes an average of seven (7) times for victim to leave their abuser for good. They are thankful to be available to encourage and support the victims. Advocate Rayme Lacey noted that there is no way to eliminate domestic violence or sexual assault, which is often connected with mental health, alcohol and drug issues. Sheriff Todd McKinley noted that many of the victims are a vulnerable population who don't feel free to talk to others and often feel trapped in their situation.

9:28 am Enter Julie Ellison, Wade Waddel

CRITICAL OREGON AIRPORT RELIEF (COAR) GRANT AGREEMENT. The follow-up to a grant application for up to \$130,000.00 to “procure specific equipment and attachments capable of clearing grounds and mowing in rough terrain near runways, airport lighting systems, taxiways and general airport property.” The equipment and attachments will aid in allowing the airport to remain open for flight operation during the winter months; also to aide in discouraging the presence of wildlife and the threat of fire, by managing the grass and weed growth. The COAR grant will pay for 83%/\$108,000.00 while the airport budget will pay for 17%/\$22,000.00.

MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve \$22,000.00 of the airport budget to include with the COAR grant to purchase the equipment as described. Approval unanimous.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE / SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MUTUAL AIDE AGREEMENT. The purpose of the agreement is to establish the terms and conditions under which the agencies will provide

mutual law enforcement and other emergency services assistance in and near National Park Service lands in Grant County. The aide is necessitated by the absence of other supporting federal agencies in Grant County and the ability to respond in a timely manner. The agreement does not include Emergency Medical Services.

MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the agreement between the National Park Service and the Sheriff’s Department as presented and affix court signature. Approval unanimous.

TEC COPIER, LLC LEASE. The Planning Department requested a copy machine lease renewal.

MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the contract with TEC Copier from Baker City, Oregon. Approval unanimous.

FAIR ENTERTAINMENT CONTRACT. Fair Manager Mindy Winegar requested approval of a fair entertainment contract, which will remain confidential until fully executed.

MSP: Hamsher/Myers – to approve the request for the fair entertainment contract and affix signature for the 2024 Grant County Fair headliner. Approval unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT. Frances Preston noted that the white highway lines on Dixie Mountain need to be repainted. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has budget issues that are said to affect the amount of maintenance painting and graveling that will be done on state highways this fall and winter.

Ron Phillips retracted a statement made during a previous court session, which indicated that the city of John Day would be contributing to the costs of the Sheriff’s patrol within the city. His statement should have been that he, as a John Day city council member, would like to see the city help out with patrol costs.

9:50 am Break for 10 minutes

10:00 am Court reconvened

EXECUTIVE SESSION. 10:00 am - **Executive Session** pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(b) to consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent who does not request an open hearing.

Executive Session 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. Judge Myers recited the State Attorney General’s script to announce the start of Executive Session. Present were Judge Myers, Commissioner Hamsher, Commissioner Rowell, Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Human Resources Director Laurie Cates, Sheriff McKinley and Blue Mountain Eagle Editor Bennett Hall. The Court left Executive Session at 10:18 am.

10:18 am Reconvene the Regular Meeting of the County Court

ACTION TAKEN. No motion was made as a result of the Executive Session.

MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the County Court. Approval unanimous.

10:18 am 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 **