

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

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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.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Regular Meeting of the County Court**

9:00 am -- Call to Order. Present were Judge Scott W. Myers, Commissioners Jim Hamsher and Sam Palmer and Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett, Commissioner-elect John Rowell, Julie Ellison, Jim Carpenter, Jamie McKay, Trista Strong, Christina Ritner, Joleen Moulton, Mark Webb, Billie Jo George, John Morris, Millie Lysne, Louis Provencher.  
A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States flag.

**HAND CHECKS.** The Court approved outside of normal claims day, check #s 64760, 64763, 64821-64825, 64845-64847 and 64849-64850.

**AGENDA.** *MSP:Hamsher/Palmer -- to accept the agenda for October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as presented.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Commissioner Palmer attended the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) meeting at the airport for public comment on the fire mitigation maps; attended the Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) Public Steering Committee meeting, and attended the full BIC meeting in La Grande.

Commissioner Hamsher attended the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) meeting at the airport; a Round Table discussion with county commissioners and staff; a Friday meeting with county commissioners about the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF); a briefing call with department heads; a National Association of Counties (NACo) Public Lands Steering Committee meeting and a briefing call with the Treasury Department about the allocation and spending of LATCF monies. Hamsher spoke with Senator Wyden's office, listened in on a White House briefing call and a BIC meeting via phone. He finished up by chairing a Southeast Area Council on Transportation meeting.

**MINUTES.** Approval of the minutes of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer - to approve the minutes of September 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as presented. Approval unanimous.*

**LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND (LATCF)** Grant County received notice on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 of the award of LATCF monies from the Treasury Department in the

amount of \$2,181,600 per year for two years. Commissioner Hamsher gave details of the process, and noted that there is no sunset on the spending of the monies and that carries few restrictions.

**RESCIND RESOLUTION 22-19** Commissioner Hamsher made a motion to rescind Resolution 2022-19 that reduced general fund employees from 40 to 32 hours per week. A new resolution will be drawn up, and will reinstate the 40 hour work week for general fund employees, retroactive to the first day of the October pay period, September 26, 2022. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer - to rescind Resolution 2022-19, an emergency declaration to reduce general fund employee hours from 40 to 32 hours per week in an effort to cut spending, and reinstate the 40 hour per week schedule. Approval unanimous.* Hamsher explained that the Budget Committee was not required to be present for the decision to rescind Resolution 22-19 as they are needed only if the monies involved are more than 10% of the total budget. The Court will have a discussion about how to allocate these funds at the next Court meeting, and asked the Budget Committee for their presence and input. Hamsher would like to look into compensating employees who were subject to the hourly reduction and loss of wages, in the form of a bonus or other monetary compensation. He noted the cost of living increase and inflation rose significantly during that period, and created hardship for those with a decrease in wages. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer - To discuss potential compensation for employees who experienced the reduction in wages due to Resolution 22-19. Approval unanimous.* Hamsher thanked employees who have remained in their positions and served the public by performing the same amount of work with reduced hours.

**COUNTY ROAD 72** Roadmaster Alan Hickerson asked last month for vacation of a portion of County Road 72. He is now requesting the legalization of 8/10 of a mile of the same road. He explained that for 25 years it has been thought to be a county road; about 10 years ago they discovered that when former Roadmaster A.C. Bond vacated the Old Bates Highway, this portion of CR 72 was included. The County has used it as a turn-around through the years, but Hickerson would like to make it legal. He asked the Court's approval to move forward in the process, including the scheduling of a Public Hearing. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer - to approve the Road Department to move forward with the required process to legalize County Road 72. Approval unanimous.*

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST AND FEE SCHEDULE** Sargent Wade Waddel requested approval of the Sheriff's Department new Public Records Request Policy and Fee Schedule. The department has operated under the County's policy in the past. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer - to approve the new policy and fee schedule for implementation. Approval unanimous.* **JAIL NURSING CONTRACT** Waddel also submitted a contract for the provision of nursing services for Adults in Custody (AICs) by Community Counseling Solutions. The contract was generated earlier in the year. *MSP: Palmer/Hamsher - To sign the IGA with Community Counseling for the jail nursing contract for 2021-23. Approval unanimous.* **CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT KITCHEN PLUMBING BID** Waddel requested the Court's approval for the replacement of the grease trap in the jail kitchen. He is recommending the lower of the two

bids from A Plumber in Oregon from Baker City. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer - to approve the bid for replacement of the kitchen grease trap by A Plumber in Oregon from Baker City. Approval unanimous.* **GENERATOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE** Hamsher asked about the generator overheating. Waddell confirmed that he had just received bids today for that repair. Waddell confirmed that they implemented a maintenance schedule for the generator this year. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer - to approve the bid for the maintenance and repair of the generator. Approval unanimous.*

**FAIRGROUNDS PROJECTS** Fairgrounds Manager Mindy Winegar requested approval to award the engineering contract for Keerins Hall and the stage extension to Strux Engineering of Prairie City. *MSP: Palmer/Hamsher - to approve award of the engineering bid for the Keerins Hall remodel and the stage extension to Strux Engineering of Prairie City. Approval Unanimous.* The engineering bids for the RV Park expansion and the grandstand project were submitted to County Counsel for review due to the difference in bid price.

**RETIRE/REHIRE OF CURRENT EMPLOYEE** A county employee gave notice of his intent to retire in 2022 and a request for rehire through 2024. The arrangement benefits the County in the savings of 6% PERS costs for the years the employee is rehired. *MSP: Palmer/Hamsher - to approve the rehiring of the employee, upon retirement, through 2024. Approval unanimous.*

**RESOLUTION 22-31** Repayment of \$25,000 from Domestic Violence to the General Fund. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer - to approve Resolution 22-31 authorizing the repayment of \$25,000 from the Domestic Violence fund to the General Fund. Approval unanimous.*

**SATELLITE PHONES** Emergency Management and Sheriff's Office requested the approval of a monthly satellite phone plan for \$55.99 per month for both phones. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer - to approve the monthly plan for two satellite phones for the total of \$55.99 per month for Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office. Approval unanimous.*

**NRAC MEETING SUSPENSION** Natural Resource Advisory Council (NRAC) board member Billie Jo George expressed frustration with the delay in the discussion of the NRAC committee status. Under consideration is the suspension of NRAC meetings until resolution of pending litigation in the local natural resource sector. Commissioner Hamsher noted that he hadn't seen the Agenda until the previous day, and was unable to cancel the discussion in a timely manner. He asked that the discussion wait until the next Court meeting.

9:35 am Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Stinnett  
Administrative Assistan