

## IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

### IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF GRANT

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**October 09, 2019**

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 Kim Puckett, Allison Field, Katy Nelson, Judy Kerr, Beth Spell, Jim Spell, Bob Pereira, Frances Preston, Billie Jo George, Reporter Rudy Diaz, and Pastor Levi Manitsas. A Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States Flag. The invocation was given by Pastor Levi Manitsas.

**CLAIMS.** The court had reviewed and approved claims & extension district warrants 31-38.

**HAND CHECK.** The court approved two hand checks #58070 & 58071.

**AGENDA.** MSP: Myers/Hamsher--- to accept the agenda as presented with the addition of the letter sent to Association of Oregon Counties (AOC).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Judge Myers had a meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> with Economic Development regarding Entrepreneurs. He attended the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) District 1 meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> in LaGrande. On the 30<sup>th</sup> Myers went to a continued operations meeting at the Emergency Management Office. October 7<sup>th</sup> Myers attended the Town Hall in Prairie City with Senator Wyden. On October 8<sup>th</sup> he met with the City of John Day regarding a sewer main project. The 8<sup>th</sup> he met with John Combs from Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) Health Department. He plans on attending the Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser Oct 12<sup>th</sup> put on by the Veterans service office to raise money for Urns.

Commissioner Palmer took 3 individuals hunting and one young man got a mountain lion opening day of deer season. During that time Palmer met with Janelle Lewis who is President of the Swimming Pool Association in Madras and was given some good information on costs and operations. Oct 1 he attended a Search & Rescue Meeting. On Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> he met with some residents in Mt Vernon in regards to a potential new business and was able to pass on some contact information he received in Washington DC for possible funding. Oct 8<sup>th</sup> he met with Allison Field and another family from Mt Vernon in regards to another potential new business in Grant County. Palmer also stated that the other two people he took hunting filled their tags.

Commissioner Hamsher traveled to LaGrande for the Association of Counties (AOC) District 1 meeting. He had a White House briefing telephone conference call about Opportunity Zones. He attended the Chamber of Commerce dinner. Hamsher talked with Mindy Winegar, Fairgrounds Manager, regarding Fairground improvements. Hamsher had a discussion with Allison Field Economic Development

Coordinator, about some projects. He attended a Town Hall at the Prairie City High School with Senator Wyden. Oct 11<sup>th</sup> he will attend Social Services Day at Grant Union High School Library. Hamsher will attend the Veterans Service Office spaghetti feed fundraiser to raise money for Urns, this will be held at the Senior Center at 5:30 Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. On Oct 14<sup>th</sup> he will attend an Association of Counties (AOC) Natural Steering Committee meeting telephonically. Hamsher will also attend Eastern Oregon Land Use Legislation Implementation on Oct 17<sup>th</sup>.

**MINUTES.** MSP: Hamsher/Myers--- to approve the September 25th minutes as presented.

Kimberly Neault entered 9:12

Haley Walker entered 9:15

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:** Kimberly Neault, Victims Assistant Program Director, discussed with the Court the award of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant in the amount of \$452,544. This is a 3 year Grant and will primarily support a full time Victim Intervention Specialist, 75% of Heart of Grant County Victims Advocate Position, Community Outreach Projects, a part time Investigator, office supplies, and travel & training. Additionally the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Criminal Fines Account (CFA) awarded a 2 year Grant awaiting the final allocation amount. This supports a large portion of the Victim Assistance Director's salary, Emergency Services for Victims, training, and Outreach Projects. Neault discussed the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) Grant 2019-21 was also awarded in the amount of \$51,737.01 the main focus is Child abuse. It supports part of the Victim Assistance Program Director's salary (.15 FTE), Community Partner training on Child abuse, MDT (Multidisciplinary Team), Mt Emily Safe Center contract for medical assessment & forensic interviews for children in Grant County.

Mindy Winegar entered 9:23

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Allison Field, Economic Development Director, asked the County Court to review and approve a contribution of \$5,000 from the Economic Development Project Development budget to the Oregon Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (Oregon RAIN) program to hire a Venture Catalyst for Grant County. **MSP: Palmer/Myers---to approve the \$5,000 contribution to Oregon RAIN.**

**FAIRGROUNDS:** Mindy Winegar, Fairgrounds Manager, would like to update the court on the Pavilion updates, and would like to add an entry way to prevent water pooling and create American with Disabilities Act (ADA) access. Winegar spoke with Levi Voight with Strux Engineering and this can be worked into the current work order. **MSP: Hamsher/Palmer---to approve and move forward with the Entry Way as being part of the Pavilion upgrades.**

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:** Jim Carpenter, District Attorney is requesting the Grant County Court appoint Richard Tirico as an additional death investigator for Grant County. Earlier this summer Tirico attended and completed the coursework to become a Medicolegal Death Investigator (Death Investigator). This appointment will bring the number of Death Investigators in Grant County up to three, to assist the State Medical Examiner on cases in Grant County. **The court agreed by consensus to table this matter until the next court date.**

**ROAD DEPARTMENT:** The court reviewed a request to adopt the updated Lead Flagger job description with the additions that were made by Alan Hickerson Road Master. **MSP: Myers/Hamsher--to approve and adopt the Lead Flagger job description with an additional \$1.00 per hour in compensation.**

**NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** The court reviewed letters of interest from persons who would like to participate on Grant County's Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC). The purpose of NRAC is to advise Grant County Court on the needs and priorities of natural resources, provide substantial comments for the NEPA process, and work through implementing Grant County's land use plan adopted by Ordinance 2019-02. The committee shall not exceed (9) nine members. members must live in Grant County and constitute a representation of agriculture, livestock production, timber and wood products production, recreation, hunting, fishing, water resources, mining, cultural resources and advocates for natural resources stewardship through the continuation of the custom, culture, health, safety, and economic stability in Grant County. The court signed a letter designating Commissioner Jim Hamsher as the voting member for the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Natural Resources Federal Land Committee. **MSP: Hamsher/Myers---to appoint all interested applicants for the Natural Resources Advisory Committee pending clarification from the District Attorney regarding county employee.**

**SENIORS:** The court to review the Senior Program Managers job description. Veanne Weddle, Senior Programs Manager will retire as of December 30, 2019. Weddle provided a summary of what the position entails. Based on the many different tasks the position requires, Weddle is asking the court to allow for a 4 to 6 week training time for the person selected as the New Senior Program Manager. Weddle met with Human Resource Manager, Laurie Wright and they believe the position could be filled by November 18<sup>th</sup> allowing the time needed for training. **MSP: Myers/Hamsher---to approve and adopt the Senior Program Managers job description.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** Judge Myers asked for public comment.

9:56 Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Puckett  
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 Kim Puckett at 541-575-0059 or [puckettk@grantcounty-or.gov](mailto:puckettk@grantcounty-or.gov) \*\***

