

**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 19th, 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, Frances Preston, John Morris, Judy Kerr, Millie Lysne, Kelly Workman, Sharon Livingston, Billie Jo George, Tory Stinnett, Shannon Springer, King Williams, Julie Ellison, Eric Bush, Mark Webb, Ryan Palmer, Undersheriff Zach Mobley and Sheriff Todd McKinley. The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the United States flag. The invocation was given by Kelly Workman.

HAND CHECKS. No checks were approved outside of the normal claims day.

AGENDA. *MSP: Myers/Palmer - to approve the agenda for October 19th, 2022.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Judge Myers attended an Intergovernmental Council (IGC) meeting by phone on the 6th, an Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) meeting by phone and an Airport Commission meeting on the 10th, a meeting with the Extension Office to discuss their rental situation and a road trip to County Road 62 to watch the operation of the new Road Department excavator on the 12th, the City County Insurance Services (CIS) management training at the Airport on the 17th and performed a wedding at the 7th Street pond on the 18th. He also attended Congressman Cliff Bentz's town hall meeting.

Commissioner Palmer had a phone call with Senator Mark Owens in regards to the cost to landowners to install fiber optic cable; met with Oregon Telephone to talk about the timeline for installation of fiber optic cable to the airport and attended Congressman Bentz's town hall meeting, receiving a flag that had been flown at the capitol and a certificate of appreciation for Palmer's service as commissioner.

Commissioner Hamsher attended an Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Steering Committee meeting by phone, a Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) Conveners meeting, a White House briefing call and Congressman Cliff Bentz's town hall meeting. He met with several department heads, attended a National Association of Counties (NACo) Public Lands Steering Committee meeting by phone and spoke several times with Congressman Bentz's staff on various issues.

MINUTES. Approval of the minutes of September 21st, and October 5th, 2022. *MSP: Myers/Hamsher -- to approve the minutes of September 21st and October 5th, 2022 as presented. Approval unanimous.*

ROAD DEPARTMENT.

READER BOARD PURCHASE. Safety Manager Ryan Palmer appeared in Court to request the purchase of a new reader board for road department operations for the cost of \$11,165.56.

MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the purchase of the reader board as presented.

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT. The Court signed the contract previously awarded to Mark Hansen Contracting for snow removal services on Grant County Road 24 and Baker County Road 520 in the amount of \$100.00hr./\$80,000.00.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Economic Development Director Tory Stinnett brought three topics to the Court for review.

COPIER RENEWAL LEASE. Stinnett presented her renewal lease with TEC Copier in Baker City for approval. *MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve the renewal lease of the copy machine furnished by TEC Copier Systems.*

OREGON RAIN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU). The purpose of the agreement is to set out the terms by which RAIN (Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network), Grant County, City of John Day, Prairie City and Canyon City will work together to continue developing and scaling up the Rain Rural Entrepreneurial Program in the region to help Grant County startups launch and thrive. *MSP: Palmer/Hamsher – to approve the two year MOU with Oregon Rain as presented.*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT. Stinnett asked the Court for approval to hire a consultant for the Technical Assistance Grant. One consultant applied and has worked with several cities in Oregon as well as the DLCDC. She noted that they will be modifying the scope of work from a housing needs analysis, which would typically be used in an urban area, to an assessment or modified version which is more useable and applicable in our rural area. It will look at the demographics for each of the seven participating cities in the county. Stinnett emphasized that this is not to have outside planning telling us what to do with our cities, but to give our cities the information and tools to proceed if they so choose. *MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the request as presented pending legal approval of the contract. Approval Unanimous*

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. Coordinator Eric Bush stated that the Berry Building (Old County Shops) did not meet the Level IV Risk (seismic) construction standards. The Sheriff's Office, the only building to potentially qualify as Level IV, has no space available for Emergency Operations. Bush recommended that they pursue the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant available through Business Oregon, noting that in order to be a successful applicant, a qualified engineer must be engaged to identify required improvements and costs. The application deadline is December 16th, 2022. Bush has set a target date of December 1st to receive the assessment making the hiring of an engineer urgent. The engineering assessment is estimated to cost between \$10,000 and \$25,000. He noted that the selection of an engineer does not require a competitive bid process if the cost is under \$100,000.

MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to find the best source within the budget to cover the cost for the engineer. Unanimous approval. Bush will return with specific recommendations.

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COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER APPOINTMENTS. Applications were received for both the College Advisory Board and the Senior Citizens Advisory Board.

MSP: to appoint Karen Shelton to fill a vacancy on the College Advisory Board with a term expiration of December 31st, 2024. Approval Unanimous.

MSP: to appoint Janet Binger to fill a vacancy on the Senior Citizens Advisory Board with a term expiration of June 30, 2025. Approval Unanimous.

MSP: to appoint Mark Webb to fill a vacancy on the Senior Citizens Advisory Board with a term expiration of June 30th, 2023. Approval Unanimous.

NATURAL RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NRAC). Judge Myers acknowledged that he brought the proposal to suspend the meetings of the NRAC committee to the table due to the current federal litigation within the local natural resource community. Commissioner Hamsher noted that the committee consists of responsible adults and asking them not to discuss the issue should be sufficient and that by-laws are in place to govern the meeting. Thom Seal noted that there are on-going mining issues within the county and the operation of the NRAC committee is needed. Commissioner-elect John Rowell was not in favor of suspending committee meetings and NRAC secretary, Billie Jo George, said that the lawsuit had never been discussed within the meetings. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to decline suspension of the NRAC meetings.*

10:15 Break

10:18 Jim Carpenter entered

NUISANCE COMPLAINT & ORDINANCE. The Court endeavored to address current situations within the county involving abandoned vehicles and residential septic issues by looking at several nuisance ordinances provided by County Counsel. Sheriff McKinley expressed his wariness with the proposals, noting that they seem to be done with a broad stroke, and give him lots of authority that he doesn't want. He felt that they are far too in-depth for the county. Although the septic issue is legitimate, he does not support the ordinances in their entirety. Planning Department Director Shannon Springer noted that two separate issues led to the proposed nuisance ordinances: a septic problem affecting nearby homeowners and land use activities felt to be a nuisance by neighbors. It is feasible for the County to provide a mechanism within the county to deal with those issues without having to take them to Circuit Court, as is now the case. It was questioned whether the wastewater/septic issues can be addressed without the remainder of the proposed ordinance. The consensus among the attendees and officials was unanimous in rejecting the proposed ordinances as not being usable for Grant County. *MSP: To decline approval of the ordinances as proposed. Unanimous.* Springer noted that along with the authority to issue septic permits and licenses, it is necessary to have the tools to enforce necessary restrictions and penalties.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT. District Attorney Jim Carpenter requested that he be allowed to take advantage of recent changes in his department involving child support administration and allow the antiquated child support enforcement contract with the state to terminate. He would then re-engage with the state with an updated contract. *MSP:*

Hamsher/Palmer – to approve the request as presented to replace the former contract with an updated and current version. Approval Unanimous.

SCANNER PURCHASE. Carpenter requested approval for the purchase of two new scanners for his office at the cost of \$1410.74. He currently has funds available in capital outlay for the purchase. He noted that his office has gone paperless since 2015 when the current scanners were purchased and that they are failing. *MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to approve the purchase of the scanners as presented. Approval Unanimous*

RESOLUTION 22-33. Treasurer Julie Ellison requested approval to transfer monies from the general fund to departmental funds in conjunction of Resolution 22-32 which reinstated the 40 hour work week to general fund county employees. *MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve Resolution 22-33 for the transfer of funds from the General Fund to appropriate departmental funds in response to the reinstatement of the 40 hour work week.*

HUMAN RESOURCES. Human Resources Manager Laurie Cates requested that the Court approve the purchase of a new printer to replace the failing printer in her office to be paid from Equipment Reserve 116100 5400001. *MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the purchase of a Brother MFC-L5900DW for the price of \$527.31. Approval Unanimous.*

COUNTY COURT. Court Administrative Assistant Laurie Stinnett requested that the Court approve the purchase of a laptop computer to support the speaker/camera purchased to enable the live-stream of the county court meetings. The cost is \$1,154.00. She noted that the laptop currently used was ten years old and did not support the new speaker/camera. *MSP: Myers/Palmer – to approve the purchase of a laptop computer for office use and in broadcasting county court meetings.*

AIRPORT. Airport Manager Haley Walker submitted a request for the Court’s approval of a lease with the Oregon Department of Forestry to take over the Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) Base operation at the Grant County Regional Airport for the sum of \$5,807.25 per year. *MSP: Myers/Hamsher – to approve the lease for the ODF SEAT Base at the airport as presented. Approval Unanimous*

PLANNING DEPARTMENT. Planning Department Director Shannon Springer asked to address the Court on the unfinished discussion of the nuisance ordinance. She stressed that it seems important for the county to have some structure or mechanism available to address land development related nuisance ordinances, rather than the single option and expense of Circuit

Court. She currently has four or five unresolved complaints in her office. She maintains that she needs the “teeth” within her position to enforce land development issues and that without enforcement there is continued disregard and an increase in violations.

11:19 am Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Stinnett
Administrative Assistant