

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
May 8, 2024

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Commissioner Ron Jacobs at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office with Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Judge Dan Joyce was absent. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. Staff present in the meeting room were Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, Courthouse bulletin board and emailed to the Argus Observer, Malheur Enterprise and those persons who have requested notice. The meeting was audio recorded. The agenda is recorded as instrument # [2024-1343](#)

PROCLAMATION - CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY WEEK

Undersheriff Dave Kesey, Lieutenant Rachel Reyna, Sergeant Josh Griffith, and Sergeant Kevin Ponce met with the Court and presented a Proclamation declaring May 5-11, 2024 as Correctional Deputy Week; Undersheriff Kesey read the Proclamation.

PROCLAMATION CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY WEEK

MAY 5-11, 2024

BY THE MALHEUR COUNTY COURT, OREGON

WHEREAS, since 1984 the Congress of the United States, and the President of the United States have established the first week of May as National Correctional Officers' Week; and

WHEREAS, Malheur County considers the services of the Sheriff's Correctional Deputies to be critical to the interest of the community; and

WHEREAS, Corrections employees model ethical and pro-social behaviors while holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior and future victimization; and

WHEREAS, Corrections Deputies are highly trained and productive members of the County workforce; and

WHEREAS, our County enjoys a high standard of public health and safety and we owe a great deal of gratitude to them. During this special observance we extend a profound thank you to each member of the corrections staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Malheur County Court proclaims the week of May 5-11, 2024 to be Malheur County Corrections Week. We invite all residents to observe this week in honor of our Corrections Deputies who help to protect our health and safety.

Commissioner Mendiola moved to proclaim the week of May 5-11, 2024 as Malheur County Corrections Week. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed.

Undersheriff Kesity and Lieutenant Reyna expressed appreciation for the corrections staff as did the Court members.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of May 1, 2024 as written.
Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed.

QUITCLAIM DEEDS - COUNTY LAND SALE

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve the following Quitclaim Deeds for properties sold at the recent County Land Sale:

Quitclaim Deed to William and Rochelle Heid for Ref. # 16345, Instrument # [2024-1354](#);

Quitclaim Deed to the Michael Kincade Revocable Trust of 2014 for Ref. # 12322, Instrument # [2024-1353](#);

Quitclaim Deed to Arrien Land & Livestock Corporation for Ref. #5385, Instrument # [2024-1352](#);

Quitclaim Deed to the Michael Kincade Revocable Trust of 2014 for Ref. # 11767, Instrument # [2024-1351](#);

Quitclaim Deed to the Michael Kincade Revocable Trust of 2014 for Ref. # 11914, Instrument # [2024-1350](#);

Quitclaim Deed to Government Land Sales for Ref. # 11929, Instrument # [2024-1349](#);

Quitclaim Deed to Kayo R. Rhodes for Ref. # 11964, Instrument # [2024-1348](#);

Quitclaim Deed to Government Land Sales for Ref. # 12282, Instrument # [2024-1347](#);

Quitclaim Deed to Government Land Sales for Ref. #12638, Instrument # [2024-1346](#);

Quitclaim Deed to Three Creek LLC for Ref. # 14763, Instrument # [2024-1345](#).

Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed.

County Counsel Stephanie Williams joined the meeting.

HITECH MINERALS - DISASTER PEAK ROAD

Brett Marsh with HiTech Minerals Inc/Jindalee Lithium met with the Court. HiTech has submitted an exploration plan of operations for its McDermitt Exploration Project to the Vale District BLM (Bureau of Land Management). Disaster Peak Road is a gravel road under the jurisdiction of the County and provides access to the exploration area. Upon BLM approval of the exploration plan of operations, HiTech will access drilling operations using the County Road. As a result of HiTech's operations, additional improvements and maintenance of the County Road may be required. HiTech will pay the costs and expenses associated with any additional maintenance, improvements or repairs, pursuant to a written Work Plan.

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Agreement between Malheur County and HiTech Minerals Incorporated, A Jindalee Lithium Limited Company. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed. See instrument # [2024-1344](#)

PLANNING DIRECTOR

The Court discussed the Planning Director position. An offer of employment was made to an individual, however the person has been unable to secure adequate housing. A current County employee may be willing to provide interim planning director services for a period of time.

Further discussions for an interim director will take place. It may be necessary to re-post the vacancy notice if the individual who was offered the position cannot relocate by a date certain.

TWIN SPRINGS ROAD

Commissioner Jacobs visited with Mr. Tiffany about Twin Springs Road. Historically, BLM has graded a portion of Twin Springs Road but they may not this year.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jacobs adjourned the meeting.