



In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
February 5, 2014

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Road Master; Cheryl Hancock, County Librarian; and Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk.

Others in attendance included Samantha White, Herb Vloedman, Jan Cupernall, Mildred Fine, Shana Withee, Dustin Johnson, David Bohnert, and Cory Parsons, representing Oregon State University Extension Service; Christy Cheyne, Emigrant Creek District Ranger, Malheur National Forest; Karen Hendrickson, Craig LaFollette, Mayor, City of Burns; and Joan Davies, Hines City Administrator.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Statistical and Financial reports were reviewed and accounts payable approved by Court's signature.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2014 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Offering Public Comment:

Herb Vloedman, regarding FEMA
Jan Cupernall, regarding Quasquicentennial
Mildred Fine, regarding Quasquicentennial

In the Matter of a Proclamation relating to Harney County's Quasquicentennial, the Court requested County Clerk Derrin Robinson to read the Proclamation aloud. Mr. Robinson read aloud the proclamation recognizing February 25th, 2014, as our 125th anniversary and "Harney County Day". Jan Cupernall and Mildred Fine, representing the Harney County Historical Society were present and explained they were hosting a free admission day at the Historical Museum that day, and were also coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce to host an open house that evening at the Courthouse.

Commissioner Runnels moved to sign the Proclamation, Commissioner Nichols second, and the motion carried unanimously. (CJ2014-13)

The Court reviewed Resolution 2014-01, In the Matter of the Declaration of Local Disaster and Request to Declare a State Drought Emergency for Harney County, Oregon. Commissioner Nichols moved to adopt Resolution 2014-01. Commissioner Runnels second, and the motion carried unanimously. (CJ2014-11)

In the Matter of Elimination of the Veterans Transportation Fund, Commissioner Runnels moved to sign the Order Eliminating the Veterans Transportation Fund, transferring the balance to the General Fund. Commissioner Nichols second. Commissioner Nichols explained these are the funds being transferred to the American Legion as discussed in the last court meeting. The motion carried unanimously. (CJ2014-12)

Judge Grasty reviewed the FY 14-15 budget schedule with the court. He said the budget will be very similar to last year, as there are no signs of more or less revenue than last year, so there will be very few adjustments. Judge Grasty proposes a one-day session with the budget committee but doesn't feel it is necessary to meet for several days with department heads and community groups. The Court chose to add an additional year to Terri Hellbusch's term on the budget committee.

Shana Withee, Dustin Johnson, Dave Bohnert and Corry Parsons, from OSU Extension Service, provided an update to the court of activities of the past year.

Christy Cheyne, Emigrant District Ranger of the Malheur National Forest, discussed numerous projects specifically the Blue Mountain Forest Plan. Judge Grasty expressed frustration that the 4-volume 1200 page forest plan is not yet available to the public for comment and time to review it is of the essence. Ms. Cheyne also discussed the Central Malheur Range Environmental Assessment, The Wolf Collaborative, and road issues. She also discussed Title II project recommendations. Commissioner Nichols requested to see if there was any way to incorporate commercial utilization of juniper in any project.

Cheryl Hancock and Karen Hendrickson, representing the library advisory, were present to recommend the appointment of Marian Greendale and Walter Rapaport to the Library Advisory Board. Commissioner Runnels moved to appoint both Marian Greendale and Walter Rapaport to the Library Advisory Board. Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously. Karen Hendrickson agreed to remain on the board as well.

Brandon McMullen (Harney County Planning Director), Mayor Craig LaFollette (City of Burns), Joan Davies (Administrator, City of Hines), and Mike Springer (Benchmark Land Surveying) discussed the status of meetings regarding flows, base flood elevations, and the ongoing FEMA flood insurance matter. Judge Grasty stated a significant effort is still being made in regards to the FEMA issue. The Cities and the County cooperatively are continuing to work diligently on this.

The Court recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m., and reconvened at 1:35.

The court had a general discussion over the telephone with Emily Ackland, Policy Manger at Association of Oregon Counties, regarding road funding and prioritized needed projects.

The Court wished to adjourn the regular session of Court, and convene a work session the rest of the afternoon to discuss Sage Grouse strategy, and further review BLM Environmental Assessment Documents, and miscellaneous correspondence. No action would be taken.

There being no further business to act upon, the regular session adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derrin Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Derrin (Dag) Robinson, CRA;CEA
Harney County Clerk & Recorder