

Harney County Court Minutes
November 21, 2007

→The Harney County Court convened November 21, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steve Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were, Kerry Landers Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Mary Ausmus, Barbara Cannady and Carl Voegtly.

→Judge Grasty led all the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the November 7 County Court minutes as presented. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed and vouchers' approved by court's signature.

→Judge Grasty clarified a statement he had made at last county court's meeting regarding the discussion on a fire protection district and stated that according to law the county court may alter or adjust the boundaries set forth in the petition to either include or exclude territory considering the criteria set by statute.

→The Judge reminded the court of the December 5 Harney County Community Response Team at 5:30 p.m. at the Harney County Senior Center. There will be presentation on existing biomass opportunities by two companies that are looking to invest in Harney County.

→The court reviewed 2007 Fund Exchange Agreement. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve and sign the agreement between Oregon Department of Transportation and Harney County. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Judge Grasty noted that there is a need to fill a seat on the Southeast Regional Alliance Board who will represent Burns and Hines and asked for them to be thinking of someone to be appointed to that position.

→The court discussed a follow up meeting with Ivan Gall of the Water Resource Dept. regarding water rights on the Meadowland area. A draft letter will be discussed later today.

→The court discussed the draft of the Steens Mt. Cooperative Management and Protection Area Comprehensive Recreation Plan. The court complimented on how issues and questions are arranged. It was the consensus of the court to write a letter to Linda Goodman expressing concerns about the status of Harney County being a cooperating agency.

→Ted Tiller, County Assessor, was present to give the Court an overview concerning the annual Certified Ratio Study. Mr. Tiller stated that between January 1 and December 31 of each year the county assessor is required to collect sales data for a ratio study. This ratio study is necessary to achieve the statutory requirements put forth in ORS 308.232, which in part, states that property is to be valued at 100% real market value and assessed at assessed value. A copy of the sales data collected and used as the basis for conclusions relating to market value are included in the ratio study. The assessor is required to file a certified copy of the sales data and ratio study with the Department of Revenue and also with the clerk of the board of property tax appeals.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adopt the Regional Investment Strategy 2007-2013. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court discussed a draft letter from the Court to the Director of Water Resources Department regarding applications for water rights in newly drilled wells are being denied or questioned on the basis of connection between surface water and ground water located in the Meadowland area between Burns and Buchanan and in between Highways 20 and 78.

→Judge Grasty informed Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor that he had received two very nice compliments on the road department, one from the county auditor and the other from the Crane school. Mr. Landers updated the court on various issues.

→Judge Grasty updated the court on issues discussed at the recent Association of Oregon Counties conference which was held in Portland November 12-16.

→The second public hearing on the Ordinance requiring trichomoniasis testing on bulls on public lands opened at 2:30 p.m. There was a number of interested public attending. A lengthy discussion followed regarding enforcement issues, along with the inclusion of private lands was discussed. It was the consensus of all to take it back to the Stockgrowers with suggestions as the current proposed ordinance under discussion needs to be amended to make it a more effective ordinance. A committee will be formed to re-write the ordinance that committee will have, at least, one County Court member. They will look at the Idaho and Nevada law those will be tweaked to fit Harney County. Another public hearing will be set for December. The hearing adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

→It was the consensus of the court to close all county offices on Christmas Eve Day, December 24, 2007.

→Judge Grasty continued with his update of the AOC conference.

→There, being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC

Harney County Clerk