

**HARNEY COUNTY COURT MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 6, 2008**

→The Harney County Court convened February 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members present were, Judge Steven E. Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were, Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Fred Flippence and Debbie Raney, from the Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Financial and Statistical reports were reviewed and vouchers paid by court's signature.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the January 16 county court minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court received a phone call from Deon Strommer, a candidate for State Representative District 60<sup>th</sup> formally telling the court that he had dropped out of the race and also thanked the court for welcoming him to the meetings he had attended.

→Fred Flippence, representing the Harney County Library Foundation presented the court with the Quarterly statement on Claire McGill Luce Endowment Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation. He informed the court of the Annual fundraiser coming up February 15 at the Memorial building. There will be a prime rib dinner with McManus comedies being the entertainment. He also reported on the ongoing projects and expressed concern that Jolyn Wynn, the current librarian, will be retiring and hopes that a good librarian will replace her. He stated that this library is an award winning library and commended Jolyn as she has done a superb job.

→Judge Grasty reported that he had applied for FEMA funds to cover some of the costs incurred by Harney Electric for fire protection of the power supply during last summer's fires and had received \$2,253.96. A check will be cut to them today.

→Mark Maliwauki, County Business Development Coordinator, was in attendance to update the court on economic development issues and projects overview. (The report is incorporated within these minutes and can be reviewed at the Clerk's office). There was discussion regarding the service agreement with the Worldwide Economic Development Association to begin site recruitment efforts for Harney County. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign the agreement with WEDA (World Economic Development Alliance) in the amount of \$8,500 for 12 months. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Fuel bid opening: Ed Staub & Sons were the only bidder. (Bid sheet can be reviewed at the Harney County Road Department) Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to award the bid to Ed Staub & Sons as recommended by the Road Supervisor. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court thanked the road department for maintaining roads during this hard snow period. They also expressed their gratitude to the Malheur Refuge for volunteering their equipment and to the citizens at large for their help during this time.

→Cheryl Keniston, Health Department Director, was in attendance to discuss a Tobacco Prevention Grant for Public Health which she has applied for and received the grant money to fund a community-based tobacco prevention program in Harney County and would fund a ½ time Program Coordinator dealing with tobacco prevention. It was the consensus of the court to have further discussion with Harney Behavioral Health to see how this will integrate with their program before a decision can be made.

→Ted Tiller, Assessor, was present to discuss appointment of two members to the County Board of Review required per ORS 308A.095. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to appoint Scott Franklin and Keith Baltzor to Harney County Board of Review. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign Resolution #2008-03 In The Matter of Adopting the Harney County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court received Notices of Proposed Decisions to renew term Grazing Permit from the BLM for various permit holders of record.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to appoint Len Vohs to fill the vacancy for the Burns and Hines seat on the Southeast Regional Alliance. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court along with Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor discussed concerns regarding the possibility of flooding issues when there is snow melt runoff.

→The court reviewed the list of 2008 sites and dates where Local Budget Law Workshops be held.

→Judge Grasty updated the court on legislation that the Special Legislative Session which convened February 4 is dealing with. He also reported on issues discussed at an AOC meeting he recently attended.

→Road Department bid opening: The following bids were received for Drilling and Blasting on Crane Venator Road;

High Desert Powder -----\$53,200  
BJ Equipment Co.-----\$50,000

The following bids were received for a Wheel Loader;

Baker Equipment – No bid

Triad Machinery – Total of \$387,320.58. Lease Option \$5,815.85 monthly, the buy back at the end of five year \$125,196.87.

Western Equipment – Total of \$399,742.11. Lease Option \$44,246.54 annually, the buy back at the end of five years \$240,000. Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor, will review the bids will make a recommendation and award the bid at next county court meeting on February 20, 2008.

→The court reviewed a Fiscal Year 2009 – Oregon Federal Appropriations request form from U.S. Senator Gordon Smith for project funds. Commissioner Nichols suggested this would be good to apply for treatment of noxious weeds such as medusa head.

→The court reviewed public notice of water use requests from Oregon Water Resource Department. No objections were expressed by the court to any of the requests.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC  
Harney County Clerk