

# HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

April 16, 2008

The Harney County Court convened on April 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were Harney County Road Supervisor Kerry Landers and County Court Secretary Sharon Johnson.

Public attending were Mary Ausmus, Joe Oltman, Clyde Kenyon, Bill Renwick, Len Vohs and Debbie Raney of the Burns Times Herald.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the April 2, 2008 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

## **Public Comment**

Joe Oltman and Clyde Kenyon were present to discuss the Veteran's Service Center that is currently located in the Senior Center. Mr. Oltman stated that the Vets would like to move the service office out of the Senior Center. Mr. Kenyon added that they would like it to be a stand alone office. Mr. Oltman then explained the reasons why. Discussion followed.

Bill Renwick stated that he is up for re-appointment to the Steens Mountain Advisory Committee and asked if the Court would support his bid. They assured him that they would. He then commended Home Health/Hospice employees for doing an excellent job for his father.

## **New Business**

Judge Grasty addressed Mr. Renwick and Len Vohs, both of the Burns City Council, about the bowling alley and the issues involved in the demolition of the building. He said that Justin Boone had quickly resolved the remaining issues so the project can move forward and that he should be commended for his efforts.

Judge Grasty noted that Senator Wyden will be holding a town hall meeting in Burns at the Library on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

The review of the application for the naming of Rawhide Road was postponed until a later Court meeting date.

Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, was present for the hearing in the matter of a text amendment to Section 9 of the Harney County Zoning Ordinance. He explained that the amendment would extend the time frame allowed for making land use application decisions from 120 days to 150 days for land outside of an Urban Growth Boundary. It was noted that this hearing is the first of two required hearings on the matter. Discussion followed, there was no public comment. At 10:45 a.m. the hearing was continued to May 7 at 1 p.m. during the next County Court meeting.

The Court then discussed the County Weed Ordinance and the proposed updates to it. The first of two hearings was scheduled for May 7 at 1:30 p.m.

Ellen Franklin, County Treasurer, appeared before the Court to discuss the closeout of the Community Development Block Grant. Ms. Franklin brought up the necessity to assign each office in the Courthouse a suite number for postal delivery reasons. Discussion followed.

At 11:07 a.m. bids for two used cars to be used by Harney Behavior Health were opened. Only one bid was received – that being from Teague Motor Company. The bid was for two SUV's: a Dodge Nitro for \$18,700 and the other being a Jeep Patriot for \$16,800.00. Chris Siegner, Harney Behavioral Health Director, was available to discuss the used car bids with the Court. It was decided that Mr. Siegner would go to Teague's and look at the vehicles offered and come back with a recommendation. Mr. Siegner returned after visiting Teague Motors where he gathered more information about the vehicles offered at the bid opening. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to buy one of each of the type of vehicles offered by Teagues as recommended by Mr. Siegner, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed an application by Dennis and Sharon Linhares for an approach, with a culvert, off of Embree Bridge Lane. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the application with the requirement of a 24" culvert as recommended by County Road Supervisor Kerry Landers, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

County Assessor/Tax Collector Ted Tiller was present to discuss the need for new software for assessment purposes. Mr. Tiller explained that the president of ASI, the company that has provided assessment software to the County for years, has indicated that the County should look at buying new software through someone else as he is planning to retire in the next two or three years and would not be available to maintain the system. Mr. Tiller indicated that he had done some preliminary research on options. A lengthy discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols recommended continuing the search for new software.

The next item of business was a discussion regarding a multi-county Emergency Management arrangement. The Court reviewed the mandated requirements outlined in Oregon Emergency Management's Administrative Rule and discussed the issues involved.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:05 p.m. Sheriff Dave Glerup was present to discuss transitional housing and the possibilities of building a new facility or buying an existing building.

The Court began a discussion regarding administrative costs to possibly be allocated to several departments. The Court approved the formula presented by Judge Grasty for cost allocation.

Title III proposals were briefly reviewed and the 45-day comment period was opened. Proposals received were as follows: FFA requested \$11,000.00 for the Forestry & Natural Resources Education Internship Program; Training and Employment Consortium requested \$38,760.00 for Oregon Youth Conservation Corps projects; Harney County Search and Rescue's annual request for \$10,000.00 as well as the Landscape Scale Collaborative Effort on the Malheur National Forest for \$250,000.00.

Judge Grasty then updated the Court on the Association of Oregon Counties meeting he attended earlier in the week. He presented a spread sheet of issues discussed and tentative recommendations by the Governor's Task Force to replace the Secure Rural Schools Act. County Clerk Maria Iturriaga, Treasurer Ellen Franklin and Assessor/Tax Collector Ted Tiller were present for this portion of the meeting.

The Court went into Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) at 2:10 p.m. and came out at 2:45 p.m. with no action being taken.

Judge Grasty told the Court that Rimrock Recycling was going to disband and that according to their by-laws all of their assets would now belong to the County. Those assets include a fork lift, a small cardboard baler, and a number of bins as well as the building. He noted that George Wynn and Dave Vickstrom deserve recognition for their efforts – the County would never have met the State's recycling standard if not for them.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully,

Sharon Johnson  
Secretary, Harney County Court