

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

May 19, 2008

The Harney County Court convened on Monday, May 19, 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, Allen Rieke of Anderson-Perry & Associates and Marilyn Musser.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the May 7, 2008 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

The Court discussed the fact that at the May 14 Fire District hearing they had left the record open for written testimony until May 21 at 5:00 p.m. Judge Grasty then suggested keeping the record open until June 2 at 6 p.m. at which time there will be another hearing. It was the consensus of the Court to leave the record open until June 2 at 6 p.m. for written comments which may be mailed to or dropped off at Judge Grasty's office in the Courthouse.

There was no public comment.

Kerry Landers stated that funds available through OTIA (Oregon Transportation Investment Act) were going to be used to replace the Poison Slough Bridge, (also known as Ninemile Slough) and that Anderson-Perry & Associates would be doing the engineering. Allen Rieke of Anderson-Perry was present to go over the work order with the Court. The construction project will take place during the summer of 2009. Details of the project were discussed at length. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to accept Work Order #2008-1, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed Resolution #2008-08 in the Matter of Extending Worker's Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of Harney County. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to sign Resolution #2008-08, Judge Grasty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court then reviewed a proposal by Tony Dickman of R&W Engineering, Inc. for professional mechanical engineering services to provide an analysis on the Courthouse, Sheriff's Office, and Harney Behavioral Health's heating and cooling

systems for a total of \$4,584.00. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to accept the proposal from R&W Engineering, Commissioner Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Inter-County Mutual Aid Agreement, brought up at a previous County Court meeting, was revisited. Judge Grasty explained the Cheryl Keniston had received approval to add the Burns Paiute Tribe to the Agreement. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign the Agreement, Commission Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty explained the Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program. He said that the program will not cost anything and will not generate any money. Judge Grasty also stated that before a contract is signed he will have representatives of the Program come to a County Court meeting to answer any questions. He has prepared a letter to Tom Mitchell of DHS Drinking Water Programs requesting the establishment a Harney County services contract.

Members of the CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area) were present to discuss the Weed Coordinator vacancy. Those present were Dan Brown, Weed Board Chair; Karen Moon, Lesley Richman and Dustin Johnson, CWMA Chair. Mr. Brown spoke for the group. He expressed their concern about the position being vacated at a critical time of the year and requested that the Court advertise for and refill this position as quickly as possible in order to maintain the integrity of this years' weed program. He also expressed concerns with the job description for the position. Judge Grasty stated that a study is scheduled with LGPI (Local Government Personnel Institute) to evaluate job descriptions and wages for all county jobs. Commissioner Nichols suggested having someone screen applications as they come in, in order to save time in hiring. A lengthy discussion followed. It was agreed between the County Court and those present that two people would screen applications for interview prospects as they come in.

Judge Grasty alerted Court members to the changing of the fees required on Wind Energy project applications. He said that the Planning Director is currently working on that change to be reviewed by the County Court.

The Court then reviewed a GIS Fee Schedule revision prepared by GIS Coordinator Bryce Mertz. Judge Grasty explained that any changes would have to be done by Ordinance. Mr. Mertz explained the reasons for the need to revise the fee schedule. He said that currently the County is losing money on maps so those costs would increase slightly and that prices for data would be reduced significantly. Discussion followed.

George Wynn and Dave Vickstrom were present to discuss the closing of Rimrock Recycling. Mr. Wynn explained that 19 years ago when they started Rimrock Recycling it was noted in their Bylaws that any assets at the time of closing would go to the County. He said that the recycling building will be cleaned

out by July 1. Mr. Vickstrom noted that any money left in the account would also be turned over to the County as that is where the money came from in the beginning. The Court then presented Mr. Wynn and Mr. Vickstrom with plaques commemorating their service to the community. Judge Grasty noted that they had done an incredible job over the years.

Judge Grasty updated the Court on the Library Director search saying that Cheryl Hancock of Prineville had been offered and accepted the job.

The Court reviewed a letter from the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department officially closing the Community Development Block Grant Agreement, Harney County Head Start, Project No. C02019.

Judge Grasty explained to the Court that the Fire Alarm System in the Sheriff's Office needs to be replaced. Two bids were received on the system replacement, General Fire Equipment bid \$10,515.04 and Alpine Alarm bid \$14,297.00. Judge Grasty recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder, General Fire.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Johnson
Secretary, Harney County Court