

**HARNEY COUNTY COURT/BUDGET HEARING
JUNE 18, 2008**

→The Harney County Court convened June 18, 2008 in Judge Grasty's office. Members present were, Judge Steve E. Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also present were, Kerry Lander, Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Randy Parks, Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the June 4 County Court Minutes as mailed. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

→Judge Grasty shared a letter from Dept. of Human Services agreeing to a final settlement of contract #112000 and a reimbursement check from Harney County in the amount of \$4721.00.

→The court reviewed a list of OLCC liquor licenses in Harney County that are eligible for license renewal. These licenses will expire on 10/1/2008.

→The court received a letter of resignation from Rick Johnson from the Harney County Planning Commission.

→Commissioner Nichols reported that Harney County is back into OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) Region #5 Judge Grasty commented that Commissioner Nichols worked very hard at accomplishing this and much credit should be given to him. Commissioner Nichols noted that this will have a huge impact on agriculture and other agencies.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the order In The Matter of the Distribution of Land Sales Money to various taxing districts. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Patty Dorroh, Director of Harney County Commission on Children and Families, was present to explain the Partnership Agreement assuring that each biennium local commission members will conduct a self-assessment of local commission functions, including staff and membership. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the agreement as presented. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Commissioner Nichols complimented Mrs. Dorroh on her excellent work and commented that things are going quiet well with the commission board and wanted to publicly thank them for their

excellence with their attendance, time and thought they put in. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to sign contracts with the following providers on behalf of Harney County Commission on Children and Families; Harney ESD Healthy Start and Great Start, Harney County School District #3, Training and Employment Consortium, Grant-Harney CASA, Crane School District #4. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Ted Tiller, Assessor, was present to explain a Request for Refund to Hermann & Ilse Werber. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the refund request as recommended by the Assessor/Tax Collector. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign the Certificate of Appropriation of Funds in Support of Oregon State University Extension Service. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2008-11 In The Matter of Transferring Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition in Harney County Fund #201, Harney Behavioral Health. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2008-12 In the Matter of Appropriating Funds Due to Unexpected or Condition in Harney County Fund #215, Industrial Building. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2008-13 In The Matter of Transferring Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition in Harney County Fund #216. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve Resolution #2008-14 In The Matter of Transferring Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition in Harney County Fund #222 Special Transit Fund. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve Resolution #2008-15 In The Matter of Transferring Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition in Harney County Fund #221 Small City and Rural Area.arnH Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

→Jennifer Jorgensen, AIG representative was in attendance to discuss referred compensation plan for employees. The court will take the information under advisement and no action taken.

→The court briefly discussed the contract for audit. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to sign the audit contract for 2007-2008 year in the amount of \$23,012 with Oster Professional Group. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Judge Grasty informed the court that he had spoken to Scott Campbell about the land swap between him and the government. Mr. Campbell knows of community concerns regarding this issue therefore he has agreed to participate in a public meeting in order to have an opportunity to explain what he's proposing. The meeting will be held July 1 at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

→A Public Hearing on the 2008/2009 Budget opened at 1:30 p.m. No public was in attendance, other than Randy Parks, from the Burns Times Herald. There was a discussion regarding timber receipts and how those funds are transferred to the schools and road. The hearing closed at 2:10 p.m.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2008-09 In The Matter of Adopting the 2008-2009 Budget and Making Appropriations in the total sum of \$31,937,932, now on file at the office of the Harney County Clerk. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2008-10 In The Matter of Categorizing 2008-2009 Taxes in the County of Harney, State of Oregon at the rate of 4.5016 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→A Public Hearing in the matter of revising the Wind Energy Facility fee schedule and the GIS fee schedule opened at 2:30 p.m. Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, was in attendance to explain the ordinances to establish fees and prices for products and services provided by the County and establish a memorandum of agreement with the applicant of a wind energy facility to aid the county in the cost recovery of these applications which may go beyond the filing fee. Closed hearing at 2:50 p.m. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign Ordinance #2008-63 to be read by title only. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Judge Grasty read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve Ordinance #2008-63 and the second reading by title only. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court opened a hearing at 2:50 p.m. in regards to adopting an ordinance establishing a G.I.S. data request form; a data sharing policy and a price list associated with the Harney County G.I.S. project. This ordinance, if adopted, will repeal ordinance #2000-37. Hearing closed at 2:53 p.m. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve

and sign Ordinance #2008-62 to be read by title only. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve and sign Ordinance #2008-62 and the second reading by title only. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The Decision hearing on the Hogrefe land use appeal opened at 4:03 p.m. Judge Grasty explained the process as the purpose of this portion is for the County Court to deliberate on the decision. Mr. McMullen, Planning Director, has provided the court with two packets, one of additional testimony and other rebuttal to that testimony. Judge Grasty noted that testimony from Clemens Real Estate was received this morning after the deadline for comments therefore it would not be part of the record. Commissioner Nichols stated that he is a member of the Farm Bureau but as such it does not constitute a conflict of interest. He stated he has not had any contact with anybody from the Farm Bureau, is not an active member and his being a member will have no bearing on this decision. Jack Hoffman, Attorney for the opponent (Thurston D. “Rusty” Inglis) and Tyler Smith, attorney for the applicant (Randolph Hogrefe III) participated via telephone. Judge Grasty stated that he had not heard a compelling argument to change the previous decision however he would like to place a condition which would be to combine the 40 acre parcel with the 10 acres one. Commissioner Drinkwater also agreed that there was no evidence to not uphold the previous decision. Commissioner Nichols stated that he has not changed from his previous vote. He defended and felt he had to stand up for agriculture and grazing land and is against this application. Judge Grasty made a motion to uphold the previous decision (which was to grant the application) with the condition that the applicant combines the 40 with the 10 acres parcel. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. The motion passed with Judge Grasty and Commissioner Drinkwater voting **Yes**, and Commissioner Nichols voting **No**. The hearing closed at 4:30 p.m. Findings and Decision will be signed July 2, 2008. (A complete recording of the hearing can be obtained from the Planning Department).

→The court recessed at 4:30 p.m. until they meet with the Fairboard later in the afternoon.

→At 6:00 p.m. the County Court and the Harney County Fairboard met to discuss the financial situation of the fairgrounds/Fairboard. It was well recognized that changing times, rising fuel costs and other economic factors are challenges the Fairboard is trying to deal with. The Fairboard members offered several options they see to increase their revenue and decrease expenses. These ideas included collecting fees on all activities at the fairgrounds, increased gate charges for the fair/rodeo and even the thought of going to a “local” rodeo in lieu of a sanctioned one. The Fairboard also asked the court to consider assuming all costs of building maintenance. While no conclusion was reached the Fairboard and court agree to meet quarterly for the coming year to deal with these challenges.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk