

**Harney County Court/Budget Board Hearing
June 6, 2007**

The Harney County Court convened June 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members present 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 and Lauren Brown 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 May 16, 2007 county court minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Mary Ausmus requested that her question at the last county court meeting be addressed in the minutes, she had asked who was responsible for the eradication of the noxious weeds at the airport and Judge Grasty had informed her that the City of Burns was responsible.

→Judge Grasty updated the court on the progress of the Memorial Building project. He said it was proceeding relatively smoothly, although there were some electrical issues. He encouraged the court to drive by and check it out.

→The court had a discussion regarding safety concerns with the Drewsey and Pine Creek turnoffs. Commissioner Nichols stated that when they do overlay or whatever they are going to do the double line should be extended further and signage erected as those turnoffs and especially the Pine Creek one is a dangerous spot. There was also discussion of safety issues at the Y and the court felt a flashing light or something should also be done there, also at Chickahominy turnoff and near Riley where also a double line should be extended.

→The court briefly discussed S1139 bill which is the national landscape conservation system and expressed grave concerns with this bill since it adds layers to the Steens Mountain. Senator Wyden will visit Harney County on Saturday, June 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the Harney County Museum Clubroom, at which time the court will address this and other issues with him.

→The court reviewed an application from Fred and Connie Kreger for an approach at South Harney Road NE of Highway 78. Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor, stated that there are no concerns regarding this application. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Darre Wilson, Veterans Service Officer, and several local veterans, were present to update the court on Veterans' issues. She informed the court that Ed and Kathy Ramsay in collaboration with Teague Motors have donated a 2006 Chrysler Van for Veteran's transportation to medical appointments. She said the van will go to Boise VA hospital once a week on Thursdays and they are in need of volunteer drivers. Judge Grasty said the Van will be added to the county insurance pool. Ms. Wilson informed the court that they have been informed by the Desert Dash Rally that the Veterans will be the primary beneficiaries for the proceeds from the Rally in August. The court complimented Ms. Wilson on a fine job she's doing with the Veterans.

→In the matter of employee medical insurance Judge Grasty informed the court that since medical insurance rates have risen tremendously the county is being forced into entering a new plan for the employees, we will be going to a Preferred Provider Plan which limits choice of doctors. Judge Grasty stated that he will be discussing and taking a look at health savings account, however he said that it is very involved for all and would have to be looked very carefully. No action taken.

→Bid opening surplus vehicles were as follow; Chevy Malibu – Jennifer Hatley \$1,019.95, B&S Auto Wrecking \$201.00, Robert Hughes \$999.99, Dennis Savage \$756.00, Roy Schwenke \$600.00 and Junior Hurd \$501.00. For the 94 E350 Ford, B&S Wrecking \$501, Dennis Savage \$356.00 and Roy Schwenke \$450.00. For the 78 Ford pickup, B&S Auto Wrecking \$51.00, Robert Wright \$601.00, Dennis Savage \$256.00 and Roy Schwenke \$100.00. For the 96 Ford F150 pickup - Stacey Johnson \$1101.00 and Roy Schwenke \$1050.00. For a 1953 Caterpillar scraper Dennis Savage \$556.00. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to accept the highest bidder and in the event the highest bidder refuses go to the seconded highest. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court received a copy of Form 1842-1, FONSI/Decision Record/Proposed Decision, CMPA TMP Decision Map and Map TP-6 for their review in regards to the BLM Travel Plan.

→The court briefly discussed drought declaration. Judge Grasty will discuss this issue with our contiguous counties to see what they're doing regarding this issue.

→The court reviewed an order to sell county land at 968 N. Alder, Burns. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to sign the order directing the Sheriff to sell county property to the highest bidder described real property located at 968 N. Alder, Burns. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Jesse Barnes, Weed Coordinator, was present to update the court on the Medusa Head issue. The court spoke, via telephone, with Ron Yockim, Natural Resource attorney and briefly discussed this issue and update on the BLM travel plan.

→A public hearing for the approval of the 2007-2008 county budget convened at 1:30 p.m. The floor was open to any public testimony as it was the last opportunity to discuss this proposed budget prior to approving it. No public input was given. Judge Grasty informed the budget board that it appears that in the Hospice Fund expenses were not appropriated as revenue comes in and now that fund has large ending balance. A sizeable amount of expenses could have been charged to Hospice not Home Health. After discussion on a solution, Judge Grasty made a motion to create a new line item as a transfer expenditure adjustment from 251-051-5-50-5162 in the amount of \$250,000 and transfer to a revenue line item of 101-019-3-39-3952 the amount of \$250,000 and the general fund beginning balances adjusted accordingly. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty will come to the court with documentation of what the exact amount will be and transfer will only be done at that time. Judge Grasty thanked the budget board for their service to Harney County during the budget process as it is a huge commitment. Hearing closed at 2:45 p.m. Judge Grasty made a motion to approve the 2007-2008 budget as proposed with all the changes accepting all funds in the total budgeted amount for all funds of \$31,344,639. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Asphalt bid opening – Albina \$290,592, Idaho Asphalt \$225,936, Sam Materials \$231,120. Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor, reviewed the bids and made a recommendation. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Idaho Asphalt in the amount of \$225,936 as recommended by the Road Supervisor. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

→Because the first Wednesday in July is the 4th, the county court will meet July 3 at 10:00 a.m.

→The court held three hearings which will be handled separately with three decisions. Attending the hearing were a number of members of the public (a complete list can be obtained from the Harney County Planning Department). The appeal of the Harney County Planning Commission approval of File 07-15, 07-16 and 07-17 (Willow Flats Proposed Partitions) consisting of: Gordon Bloomquist two applications for partitions. The property is located approximately 10 miles Northwest of Hines on the North side of Hines Logging Road in the EFRU-1 Zone and an application of Merle Reid for a Partition and Non-Farm Dwelling, the non-farm dwelling would be on Parcel 3 (120 acres). The property is located approximately 10 miles Northwest of Hines on the North side of Hines Logging Road in the EFRU-1 Zone. Judge Grasty explained the procedure on process for the three hearings as they would be separate with closing one and starting the other one. Brandon McMullen presented an overview of the three applications. Mike Hollowell, appellant and adjacent landowner stated he was opposed to application 07-15. Tim Clemens, proponent, and part of B&C Land, LLC testified that they did not create new tax lots, just moved the boundaries with lot line adjustments. Judge Grasty asked about the configuration of tax lot and how they were changed through the process of lot

line adjustment. Commissioner Nichols stated that the end result is to see what the applicant intends to do with the land and should be written down. Brandon Baron spoke as a proponent and said it seems to conform with all the regulations and there is a huge need and desires for this type of property. Joe Pettyjohn, opponent to the application 07-15 testified that he's opposed to the development as it would change the overall use and adversely affect the grazing use of the land. Commissioner Nichols encouraged people to speak up if they had something on their mind. Randy Wilson testified that he agrees with the applicants as they've followed minor partitions requirements and state and county ordinances. Rob Paramore, Hilda Allison, Merle Reid, Kristy Young, Lane Johnson, Richard Kidwell, Doug Gunderson and Gordon Bloomquist, applicant, all testified as proponents. Tim Clemens stated they're not doing a subdivision as they have three parcels of land and each one of those parcels they are dividing. Closed the hearing at 4:10 p.m. then opened the hearing for 07-16. Tim Clemens stated that his testimony is the same as before on 07-15 and would carry forward as that testimony of Brandon Baron, Randy Wilson and Gordon Bloomquist. Joe Pettyjohn, opponent, stated that his testimony would carry forward to this application. Hearing closed at 4:15 p.m. The hearing opened for application #05-17 for Non-farm dwelling for Merle Reid, applicant. Mr. McMullen, Planning Director explained how a non-farm dwelling would be able to be established. Mr. Hollowell stated that his previous testimony would carry forward, however he does not agree with the Findings and Decision written by Mr. McMullen. Merle Reid, applicant, stated that this is a suitable piece of property for his family to be able to raise 4-H animals. Tim Clemens stated he's for the proposal. Joe Pettyjohn, opponent, said he was in opposition to the 120 acres parcel. Judge Grasty stated that everything heard on the first application will be part of the record on the second and third applications. The hearing closed at 4:55 p.m. Judge Grasty informed all that the record will remain open for seven days until Wednesday, June 13 at 5:00 p.m. to accept additional written testimony. The court set the date of July 3 for rendering the decision on these appeals. (A complete recording of these hearings can be obtained at the Harney County Planning Department.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk