

**HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2011**

→The Harney County Court convened January 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members in attendance were, Judge Steven E. Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Pete Runnels. Also in attendance was County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public in attendance were, Karen Moon, Debbie Raney, from the Burns Times Herald, Ed O'Carroll and Sam Kaser.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the December 15, 2010 as mailed. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Karen Moon, Harney County Watershed office, was in attendance to request \$16,600 in kind contribution from Harney County for the Harney Basin Small Grant she will be providing the complete grant form once is completed. By consensus the court agreed to continue \$16,600 in-kind contribution to the Watershed Council.

→Ms. Moon also requested a new member from the County Court be appointed to the Watershed Council since Commissioner Drinkwater no longer is a member. She was informed that the court will have a workshop later this afternoon to discuss this among other appointments and definitely, someone will be appointed to the council.

→Judge Grasty updated the court on the Sage Grouse issue. He informed the court that there will be a meeting for update time for counties to meet collectively and spend an afternoon talking with ODFW to give input on the strategy.

→In regards of the Theimer Park slash pile burning contract. Judge Grasty informed the court that the Department of Forestry and Eric Drushella had reviewed the two bids submitted. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to award the Theimer Park slash pile burning contract to Tony Hauth at \$70 an acre with the understanding that verification of insurance be provided before the contract begins. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court briefly discussed a proposed Franchise Agreement between Harney County and Falcon Cable Systems Company (locally known as Charter Communications). The court will take this under advisement and make a decision at a later date after a thorough review of the proposed agreement.

→The court signed the following annual Court Orders:

→In the Matter of Appointing A County Budget Officer for the year 2011. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to appoint Judge Grasty as budget officer for 2011-2012 FY. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→In The Matter Of The Appointment of Harney County Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore for 2011. Judge Grasty informed the court that another person, other than the ones listed in the order, was interested in being appointed. Judge Grasty explained since this person is also interested in the Justice of the Peace appointment when it becomes vacant, it runs against the grain as he does not want to be in a position where this person would have an advantage over others that might be interested as well, he stated his belief has nothing to do with the person. Ed O'Carroll spoke on his behalf as to why he wanted to be Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore and outlined his knowledge and why he thought he was the best person for that job. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to appoint Sandra Richards and Stephen Finlayson Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore for 2011. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→In The Matter Of Designating An Official County Newspaper for 2011, Commissioner Runnels made a motion to Designate the Burns Times Herald as the official County Newspaper for the Year 2011. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court will sign the orders for County Health Officer and County Medical Examiner at next county court meeting when Judge Grasty will have discussed these appointments with the individuals.

→The court reviewed a letter from Charmaign Edwards, Board Clerk for South Harney School District #33 requesting the County declare the Fields School's driveway a public access driveway. Apparently this driveway does not have an easement from the private landowner and the landowner is concerned about liability. Judge Grasty stated that they will work on logistics and how best resolve this issue.

→Judge Grasty made a motion to re-appoint Dan Nichols and Ramona Hofman to the Harney County Commission on Children and Families as recommended. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Nichols abstaining. Mrs. Dorroh stated that one member has resigned and will need a new appointment in the near future.

→Alicia Goodson and Ashlee Voges were in attendance with a power point presentation on the Drug Free Community grant. Kathy Rementeria, Tammy Johnston and Patty Dorroh were also in attendance for this very informative presentation.

→There was no public notice of water use requests for H.C. from Oregon Water Resources Department.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve Resolution #2011-01 In the Matter of Establishing a Harney County DEQ On-Site Reserve Fund. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, was in attendance to give a brief overview of the work plan the Planning Department will be using to provide Building Department services for Harney County. Immediate services to be provided will consist of Harney County partnering with Lake County Building Department to provide inspection and plan review services. The Deschutes County Building Department will also be utilized on an as-needed basis for certain services as well. It was the consensus of the court to authorize Judge Grasty to sign agreements with both Lake and Deschutes Counties for services.

→Mr. McMullen, on behalf of the Planning Commission, requested that the county court set a Land-Use Hearing to Amend the Harney County Zoning Ordinance which would update code under HCZ) 3.080 – Airport Vicinity Overlay Zone. A hearing date of Wednesday, February 2, 2011 was set for the purpose of reviewing the Planning Commission’s recommendation to amend the Ordinance.

→Judge Grasty noted that Commissioner Runnels brought to their attention that the bus route through here is out for bid again which raises concerns, however is in the middle of the process and is out of reach right now.

→In regards to the appointment to GEODC, this will be discussed at the workshop later this afternoon.

→Judge Grasty shared a draft letter to City of Hines regarding a previous request from the City requesting the consideration to transfer ownership to the city of a strip of land in Hines owned by the county. In order to accomplish this, the county will need to get confirmation, in writing, that the property will be used for a public purpose for not less than 20 years after the county conveys it.

→Commissioner Nichols commented on the CCP (Comprehensive Conservation Plan) for the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. He mentioned how good and collaborative the process has been. The process is not done yet but still moving ahead. They will have a meeting tomorrow, Jan. 6.

→The court will have a work session after this meeting.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk