

**Harney County Court Meeting  
November 2, 2011**

The Harney County Court convened November 2, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Pete Runnels. Also attending were, Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor, County Clerk Maria Iturriaga and Nellie Franklin, Treasurer.

Public attending was, Debbie Raney from the Burns Times Herald.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the October 19, 2011 county court meeting as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Judge Grasty provided an update on the Sage Grouse issue. He noted that the North Steens Environmental Impact Statement cooperating agencies had met last week in Bend to work through processes. He stated it was a very positive meeting and believes a record of decision will be signed in December.

The court discussed the upcoming ODFW public meetings set to discuss its proposed acquisition of the McDaniel Ranch (aka the Blaylock Ranch) in Malheur County. There will be a hearing tonight (Nov. 2) at 7:00 p.m. to discuss this proposition. Judge Grasty encouraged the members of the court to attend and provide input. There was a hearing last night in Malheur County however results of that meeting is not known at this time.

Judge Grasty provided update on the wolf litigation and the ODFW plan.

Cheryl Keniston, Harney County Public Health Director, Krystie Jacques, Ashley Vanderdasson and Patty Leahy were in attendance as the court recognized the Harney County Home Health/Hospice being named to the OCS 2011 Home Care Elite.

After discussion regarding the Surveyor's position Commissioner Runnels made a motion to draw up an order to be signed at next county court appointing Kenny Delano as Harney County Surveyor. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2011-13 In the Matter of Establishing a Sister-County Relationship with Clackamas County. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously. This resolution will be presented at the AOC annual meeting in November. Judge Grasty noted that the county will collaborate with AOC to further develop the Sister-County program for State-wide implementation.

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to add discussion of the appointment to the SEACT (Southeast Area Commission on Transportation) committee to the agenda. Judge Grasty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to continue the appointment of Len Vohs to the SEACT (Southeast Area Commission on Transportation) committee. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty made a motion to add discussion of the appointment to the Harney County Library Advisory board to the agenda. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to appoint Misti McCanna to the Harney County Library Advisory Board. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

After some discussion regarding Resolution #2011-12 In the Matter of Harney County Fairgrounds Capital Reserve Fund to Receive AT&T rent payments. Judge Grasty made a motion to sign the Resolution #2011-12 establishing the fund. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Brandon McMullen, Planning Director was in attendance to discuss Goal 5 Plan Amendment. A lengthy discussion ensued. The County Court, at a later date, will be determining whether to move ahead with goal 5 plan amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. Goal 5 is a broad statewide planning goal that covers over a dozen resources, including wildlife habitats, historic places, and aggregate (gravel).

The court reviewed Water Use Requests from Oregon Department of Water Resources. No objections expressed by the court to any of the requests.

1:00 p.m. the hearing for the continuation and decision on the Cannady petition to vacate a public road which had an input hearing on Oct. 19, 2011. Attending via telephone were Ron Yockim, attorney representing Harney County, Tyler Smith, Attorney representing Barbara Cannady and Tom Sullivan, attorney representing Neales & Marshalls, attending in person were Linda Neale, Rod McAffe, Gary & Colby Marshall, Debbie Raney and Barbara Kull.

Commissioner Nichols made a motion that the vacation of this road is **not** in the public interest. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Commissioner Nichols, Commissioner Runnels and Judge Grasty commented their reasons why there **is** public interest **not** to vacate this road therefore keeping it as county road. Motion carried unanimously. The decision hearing adjourned at 1:20 p.m. Ron Yockim, attorney, will prepare an order on the court's decision to be signed at next county court meeting on Nov. 21, 2011.

The court reviewed the following correspondence; a letter regarding rural cemeteries from Kuri Gill, Heritage Grants and Outreach Coordinator, regarding rural cemeteries; a letter to Harney, Grant, Baker and Union Counties from Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative regarding the importance of them being involved in economic development in the respective counties and

also counties be interested in OTEC being a “partner” in such efforts; a letter from the US Postal Service regarding closures of rural post offices and a letter from ODFW in response to a letter from Judge Grasty with questions regarding the proposed purchase of property by ODFW in Malheur County. (McDaniel Ranch)

Judge Grasty noted there are a number of potential interested individuals for the position of Health Director as well as other models or options.

2:00 p.m. the court opened bids for the East Steens Road project. The following bids were received;

ACW Inc. \$695,400  
Knife River - \$1,097,900  
Harney Rock & Paving - \$1,237,967  
J.A.L. Const. Inc. - \$1,408,010  
James Dean Const. - \$1,197,500  
Latham Excavation - \$776,215  
Richard Bareles, Const. –\$ 832,107.50  
Robinson & Owen Heavy Const. – \$1,221,650  
K&E Excavation - \$1,048,740  
Jack Robinson & Sons, Inc. - \$1,051,685  
Taylor Northwest - \$790,115  
Jack Smith Timber Mt. Const. - \$975,910  
Weekly Brothers Inc. - \$730,645  
J&S Trucking, Inc. - \$884,553  
Laduke Const. – \$996,374  
Kerr Contractors – 1,225,550

Road Supervisor, Eric Drushella and Anderson Perry Engineering will review the bids. The court authorized Eric Drushella in conjunction with AndersonPerry Engineering to make the decision on awarding the bid. The court will ratify that decision at the next county court meeting on November 21, 20011.

The court will have a workshop On Nov. 8, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. to talk to Fair board director’s applicants and have further discussion on the Health Department Director’s RFP.

Paul Davis, stopped in to discuss a couple of issues on the Alvord Ranch.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC  
Harney County Clerk

