

**Harney County Court Meeting  
December 21, 2011**

→The Harney County Court convened December 21, 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; Terri Cain Commission on Children and Families Director; Nellie Franklin, County Treasurer and Derrin (Dag) Robinson, Chief Deputy County Clerk.

→Public attending were Barbara Cannady, Pauline Braymen and Debbie Raney of the Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 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 and the Echanis Wind Project.

→The Court will interview for the Positions of Directors of Public Health and Home Health & Hospice on January 11.

→The Court reviewed the citizen's use of the National Association of Counties Prescription Drug Discount Card Program.

→Alicia Goodson, Drug Free Communities Coordinator, and Ashley Voges, Symmetry Care presented the community Marijuana Assessment Results.

→Either Judge Grasty or Commissioner Nichols will serve on the Local Advisory Committee to the Greater Harney Basin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan Committee.

→The Intergovernmental Agreement between Grant and Harney Counties allowing Grant County to assume the responsibility for Oregon Health Division Licensing, Inspection and enforcement programs was tabled until January 4, county court meeting.

→The court discussed Silvie's River flood control.

→Becky Cunningham, President of Rimrock Recycling provided the court with an update, and asked for a lease renewal. She also reported that they may be recipients of funding from Meyer Memorial Trust for funding for an additional building, in the future. The court agreed to draft up a lease renewal.

→District Attorney, Tim Colahan provided a presentation on the Governor's Sentencing Committee.

→The court reviewed a letter from the City of Burns requesting use of a county owned residence for training purposes for the Fire Dept. Commissioner Nichols moved to grant use of the facility for the fire dept. Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

→The court reviewed a letter requesting use of the Edward Hines Lumber smoke stack to attract birds (Vaux's Swifts). The court agreed by consensus.

→The court reviewed letters from applicants for the vacant Fair Board positions. Don Slone, Fair Manager; Bill Otley, Zelly and Valri Purdy, were present for the discussion. The court discussed whether or not to have 5 or 7 members. Commissioners Runnels and Nichols both wished to make it a 7 member board. Judge Grasty concurred. Commissioner Runnels moved to make the fair board a 7 member board. A discussion ensued. Don Slone, Fair Manager, objected. He feels that replacing 3 people on a 5 member board, is easier. He said the fewer new members, the less the burden on the other members for training. Zelly agreed with Mr. Slone. The court members struggled to understand that philosophy. Judge Grasty stated, with one more resignation, they will all be new, so why not accept the help. Judge Grasty called for the vote on the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols moved to appoint Valri Purdy, term ending 12/31/12; Karen Moon, term ending 12/31/14; Kevin Pryse, term ending 12/31/14; Joe Maher, term ending 12/31/13; Brian Farrally, term ending 12/31/12. Commissioner Runnels seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. These members will join current members Zelly, and Jim Kelley on the Fair Board. The board meets the second Tuesday of every month, at the Hibbard Building at the Fairgrounds. Judge Grasty asked that the board organize it self, and within 45 days, provide the court with the new Organizational Chart. The court and members present discussed the possibility of a strategic planning session, bringing a facilitator from another county fair to assist. The group thought it was a good idea. Judge Grasty asked to meet next week with Don Slone, Fair Manager, and Nellie Franklin, County Treasurer to review financials related to the Race meet. Don Slone announced that he was appointed to the Oregon Fair Commission, in the last few days. The Court congratulated Mr. Slone on this appointment, and felt his contributions will be beneficial to Harney County.

→Gerard and Lori LaBrecque, provided the court an update on the operations of Joseph's Juniper, Inc. They processed over 800 acres in Juniper, in just over 7 months, keeping 8 employees busy, and feel that Juniper is Harney County's most important product. They said their biggest hurdle is Insurance costs.

→The court discussed the forest health and job funding source that was used for this grant last year. Commissioner Nichols wished to advertise the funding again, as soon as possible, in order to review applicants, and get it out in the economy again. Judge Grasty planed to have it

advertised January 11<sup>th</sup>, and move forward with the process of accepting applications for funding.

→The Court reviewed notices of water use requests. There were no objections to any requests.

→The Court discussed appointing a county representative to the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation Board of Directors. Commissioner Runnels agreed to continue to serve.

→In the matter of the Emergency Management Position, the Court will advertise for an Emergency Management Coordinator.

→Commissioner Nichols reported that there will be a Commission on Children and Families Re-organization meeting on January 5.

→There being no further business, the court adjourned at 4:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Derrin (Dag) Robinson, CRA, CEA  
Deputy Harney County Clerk