

Harney County Court Meeting

February 2, 2011

The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending were Road Supervisor Eric Drushella, and County Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. Public attending were Mary Ausmus, Burns Mayor Len Vohs, Barbara Cannady and Debbie Raney of the Burns Times Herald. County Treasurer Nellie Franklin, County Librarian Cheryl Hancock, County Economic Development Coordinator Randy Fulton and Herb Vloedman were present for part of the meeting.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the January 19, 2011 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Runnels seconded with a change to the minutes: that the bus route mentioned at the last meeting was between Bend and Ontario rather than Portland and Ontario, motion carried unanimously.

Statistical and Financial reports were reviewed and vouchers approved by Court's signature.

During Public Comment Herb Vloedman stated that he was in charge of trying to keep the ambulances running and provided an update to the Court on the condition of the ambulances. He said that there is an opportunity through Lions International for a grant for medical equipment and that they need community support for the grant application. He also stated that fund raisers will be held. Discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to donate \$200.00 to the cause, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mary Ausmus was in attendance to comment on the state of Rimrock Recycling, saying that it has been cleaned up considerably and looks great. Judge Grasty concurred. Judge Grasty mentioned that the two overhead doors had been replaced by local contractor Jack Gideon.

Judge Grasty then informed those present that the Riley Landfill was on fire and that DEQ was aware of that fact. He said that the fire was very small and that they think it has been burning for a few days. Judge Grasty asked Road Supervisor Eric Drushella and Randy Fulton (former Landfill Operator) to drive out to Riley and take a look at the situation.

Cheryl Hancock was present asking the Court to extend two of the Library Board member's terms for two more years to stagger terms so that there won't be three expiring at the same time. The changes would make it so that two expire each

year. Judge Grasty made a motion to accept the recommendation by Ms. Hancock, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Tonya Fox and Scott Craig of Training and Employment Consortium provided an update on TEC's programs. Ms. Fox said that 86 people completed the Welcome process in January; 29 dislocated workers received services and there were 24 new registrants through the Welcome process. Discussion followed. Mr. Craig then went on to explain TECs programs and answer questions. Ms. Fox concluded the presentation saying that the Northwest Renewable Energy Institute from Vancouver, Washington will come to town this month on February 24th to hold meetings, which will be open to the public, to explain their program for training of wind turbine technicians. There will be two meetings one at 2 p.m. and the other at 7:30 p.m.; both will be held at the DHS building, 806 West Jackson (next to Wagner's Furniture). She said that there are currently 16 Harney County students attending the school. She also said that TEC has packets available for anyone who is interested. Ms. Ausmus asked where TEC's funding comes from and was told that the program is federally funded.

Ms. Ausmus stated that she appreciates the Court accepting audience questions during County Court meetings.

The Mineral Rights Application for Jim Wilson was discussed. Judge Grasty said that Mr. Wilson had come in recently to discuss the application with him. It was the consensus of the Court to proceed with the process.

Judge Grasty said that the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council has an opening for an elected official; he said that it has been a long time since the RAC has had a Harney County elected official involved. He also noted that Bill Renwick is currently serving on the Committee. Commissioner Nichols stated that he would follow-up on this subject.

Guy McKay, Veterans Service Officer, provided an update on the Veterans program. Discussion followed. Mr. McKay also informed the Court that he is now holding office hours at the Burns Paiute Reservation once a month. Judge Grasty said that Mr. McKay is doing a great job and thanked him for his efforts.

The next item of business was the Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Issue Form. The Court discussed SB262 which deals with the registration of horses in the state. Judge Grasty said that the bill may not go anywhere but that counties should be prepared to oppose it should it come in later. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to send in the form to oppose SB262 in the matter of registering horses, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Title II project possibilities were discussed. Judge Grasty said that Doug Jones, new District Ranger for Emigrant Creek Ranger District, will bring in the documents on projects within the next six weeks for review. Discussion followed.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m. in the basement meeting room.

The Court met with Roger Lee and Collins Hemingway from Deschutes County to discuss the possibility of an unmanned aerial vehicle testing area. Mr. Lee and Mr. Hemingway represent the Aviation Recruitment Committee for Economic Development for Central Oregon. Public attending during this portion of the meeting were: Scott Franklin, Cliff Asmussen, Gordon Perlot, Walt Sitz, Mike Peila, Burns Mayor Len Vohs, Burns City Manager Don Munkers, County Business Development Coordinator Randy Fulton, Barbara Cannady, Debbie Raney of the Burns Times Herald and Richard Cockle of the Oregonian. Mr. Hemingway explained what a UAS (or drone) is; where the proposed test area is located; what the test area would mean for our local pilots and why they chose the area they did. Both men agreed that the test area could benefit Harney County's economy because of the use of local businesses by the companies who would use the test area. Harney County was offered a position on the aviation committee.

A Public Hearing in the Matter of a Text Amendment to the Harney County Zoning Ordinance 3.080, Airport Vicinity Overlay Zone (AVO), was opened at 2:10 p.m. Brandon McMullen, County Planning Director, explained that the request is to Amend the HCZO to establish clearer and more appropriate local review procedures for existing uses listed under the Airport Vicinity Overlay Zone and the underlying zoning district. Mr. McMullen presented three instances where individuals were required to go through the Conditional Use Permit process for what would normally be Administrative Review if located in the EFRU Zone without the AVO. Discussion followed. Don Munkers, Burns City Manager, spoke about the City of Burns having a concern with FAA notification. He said the main issue would be something being developed that would attract more birds or the like, that the city would want to be notified and the FAA should be noticed as well. Further discussion followed. Judge Grasty said that Mr. McMullen could work with County Counsel to draw up the amendment and that it should possibly include an emergency clause. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Court to include an emergency clause. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the Text Amendment to the Harney County Zoning Ordinance 3.080 (Airport Vicinity Overlay Zone, AVO) and close the hearing at 2:30 p.m., Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Eric Drushella and Randy Fulton reported back that they believed that the landfill fire in Riley was not large. Judge Grasty said he would write up a plan to deal with the fire. Susan Christensen of the Department of Environmental Quality stopped by to report what she found at the Riley landfill. Judge Grasty asked

what, if anything, the County needed to do at this point. Ms. Christensen said that if Mr. Drushella would document his actions and send it to DEQ that would be sufficient.

Judge Grasty informed the commissioners that Linda Hayes-Gorman and Joni Hammond from the DEQ will be in Burns on March 17 to discuss any issues the County may have with DEQ.

Judge Grasty initiated a discussion regarding privatizing Mental Health and suggested holding public hearings on the matter. It was decided to hold a hearing on March 16th in the evening.

The Court briefly discussed the upcoming meeting to be held with ODFW to discuss Sage Grouse.

The Court reviewed a letter from Association of Oregon Counties representatives on the National Association of Counties Board requesting a donation to go towards the NACo Annual Conference being held in Multnomah County this year. Judge Grasty made a motion to contribute \$2000 from the economic development line to the cost of the convention, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Budget issues were discussed briefly.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Johnson
Administrative Assistant