

**Harney County Court Meeting/Budget Adoption Hearing  
June 15, 2011**

- The Harney County Court convened June 15, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steven E. Grasty, Commissioners Dan Nichols and Pete Runnels. Also attending were, Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor, and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.
- Public attending were, Pauline Braymen and Debbie Raney from Burns Times Herald.
- 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 June 1 county court meeting/budget board hearing as mailed. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Judge Grasty gave an update and of the Sage Grouse issue and commented he had asked for minutes of the last LIT meeting which was held in Burns, however he had been told there were no minutes available, he will insist for at least notes for the record. A discussion on this issue ensued. There will be a technical team meeting in Bend next week at which Judge Grasty will attend.
- Renee Buermann briefly came in to the meeting to thank the court for their contribution of \$3,500 for the Wisdom in Nature (WIN) project. She was asked if they had heard from Malheur and Grant Counties in regards to them contributing as well, they had not.
- Commissioner Nichols noted a letter from Oregon Department of State Lands regarding AUM's fees. Commissioner Nichols has responded on behalf of the court.
- Judge Grasty presented an update on the Harney Behavioral Health transition to the non-profit Symmetry Care. A list of assets has been identified and will be shared with the court.
- The court reviewed an agreement to assign GOBHI membership from Harney Counseling and Guidance to Symmetric Care. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to authorize Judge Grasty to sign the agreement. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Tony Svejcar & Dave Bohnert from Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center were in attendance to update the court on the programs at the research center and to request the County Court's approval in regards to the continuation of the lease of county owned land

at Burns Butte. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to authorize Judge Grasty sign amendment Number two Lease agreement commencing September 1, 2011 and continue through August 31, 2016. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Wayne Keeney from Senator Ron Wyden's office briefly came in to the meeting and informed the court that Senator Wyden will be in Burns July 9, 2011.

→A budget hearing to adopt the 2011/2012 budget, Levy Tax and Categorize Tax opened at 1:30 p.m.

→In the Matter of 2011 Elections for National Forest Related Safety-Net Payments Resolution. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to sign Resolution #2011-07. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court reviewed RAC Title II Project Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2012.

→The court received a letter of resignation from Chris Palmer, County Surveyor effective July 1, 2011. It was the consensus of the court to have the Surveyor's position as an appointed position as allowed by ORS 204.005 (2) which states "unless an adopted county charter or a county ordinance provides otherwise, the governing body of a county shall appoint a surveyor". The County Court is reviewing its options in filling the appointment of county surveyor.

→The Court reviewed the GEODC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) survey. The consensus of the court was to have CRT complete the survey.

→Judge Grasty presented an overview regarding the Initial Damage Assessment the County provided the state on the May 2011 flooding event in Harney County. A lengthy discussion regarding this issue ensued. It was the consensus of the court to have ask that an assessment be done of the Silvies River course by the Corps of Engineers, DSL and Water Resources Department.

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

→Judge Grasty stated there is an error on the DFC grant program manager 236-37-5-10-1002 line item in the budget where the amount should be changed to \$32,508.

→Judge Grasty made a motion to approve changes to fund 236-37 Drug Free Community Grant from the approved amount of budget committee from \$48,857 to \$50,970 change material, supplies & expenses from \$40,154 to \$38,041. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Hearing closed at 3:03 p.m.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to sign Resolution #2011-08 In The Matter of Adopting the Budget and Making Appropriations for 2011/ 2012 budget in the total sum of \$33,514,641.00 now on file at the office of the Harney County Clerk. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign Resolution #2011-09 In The Matter of Imposing and Categorizing 2011/2012 Taxes in the County of Harney State of Oregon at rate of 4.5016 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Brandon McMullen informed the court he had attended a FEMA meeting this morning where they were in discussions regarding re-mapping the Burns Flood plain area. He stated the meeting went very well and was well attended. He also informed the court that ONDA (Oregon Natural Desert Association) has appealed his (Planning Director) decision on an approval for a Farm Dwelling proposed by Charlie Otley of Diamond and that this appeal will be heard by the Planning Commission in July.

→The court reviewed the BLMs Finding of No Significant Impact on the Cottonwood Creek Allotment Management Plan Environmental Assessment, the Environmental Assessment on the Wildland Juniper Management Area Interpretive Trail and the Environmental Assessment on the Stonehouse Seeding #2 Pipeline Extension.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to allocate \$20,000 to the High Desert Partnership as requested. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→There will be a special county court meeting on June 29, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. for any financial issues that may arise prior to the end of the fiscal year and Harney Behavioral Health transition.

→There was general discussion on various issues.

→There being no further business the meeting/hearing, with no public comment presented, adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC  
Harney County Clerk