

## **Harney County Court Meeting**

July 6, 2011

The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, July 6, 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 was County Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. Public attending for all or part of the meeting were Ashlee Voges of Symmetry Care, Michelle Bradach President of Harney Partners, Alicia Goodson the Drug Free Communities Coordinator, Tammy Downs of the Burns Times Herald and Barbara Cannady.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the June 15 and June 29, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

During Public Comment Jesse Barnes, Harney County Weed Control Supervisor, explained to the County Court that she had received an official complaint regarding Scotch thistle. Discussion followed. She then explained that the Weed Department has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Burns to spray at the Airport. She also explained her investigation into a complaint that the willows along Diamond Lane had been killed back too far. Commissioner Nichols said that people in the community are very unhappy about the situation. Discussion followed. Judge Grasty suggested involving Road Supervisor Eric Drushella in further discussion due to the road safety issues. Ms. Barnes then explained that the CWMA wants to expand on the time that is spent by the County on CWMA projects and therefore would like to hire a part time Coordinator separate from the County Weed Supervisor; she covered some of the logistics of hiring such a person. Discussion followed. Judge Grasty asked her to put the information in writing for the Court to review before making a decision.

Ashlee Voges of Symmetry Care and Patty Dorroh Director of the Commission on Children and Families and current Program Director of the Drug Free Communities Grant were present to request the Court's approval to make a change in the key personnel (Program Director) for the grant. Ms. Dorroh explained that Harney Partners for Kids and Families, the coalition that works with the grant, is nominating Ms. Voges to serve as the DFC Program Director by contract, effective August 1, 2011. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to install Ashlee Voges as the Program Director and authorizing Judge Grasty to sign the request document; Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court took a short recess for Judge Grasty to address a situation unrelated to the meeting.

Judge Grasty returned to the meeting and noted that there are a couple of checks the Commissioners should be aware of; a check transferring money back that had been put in the Fair Fund to assure an ending fund balance, he noted that the action had a zero net impact on their budget and also a check to Symmetry Care moving program dollars.

Judge Grasty noted that the BLM has provided notice that the Lakeview District is preparing an Environmental Assessment to evaluate the site-specific effects of alternative methods for treating noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation to restore ecosystem health. The letter states that they manage 3.4 million acres of public land and that they treat about 5,500 acres of noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation each year. Judge Grasty suggested that the Court make a recommendation that they do more acres annually.

County Planning Director Brandon McMullen appeared before the Court to explain that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Malheur Wildlife Refuge want to build a nesting island in Malheur Lake to house Caspian Terns. The Army Corps of Engineers is working on the project and wants to begin construction on October 1, 2011. Discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols explained that the Terns will eat small carp which is the desired outcome of creating the habitat. He will discuss with the USFWS the possibility of meeting with the Court. Further discussion followed. Mr. McMullen then informed the Court that the Planning Department is looking to fill an open spot on the Planning Commission that has been open since the resignation of a Commissioner last October; he also noted that Mark Owens' term is up and that that Mr. Owens had turned in a letter requesting reappointment. It was the consensus of the Court to advertise the opening and shoot for an August 3<sup>rd</sup>, deadline for application. Judge Grasty made a motion to recognize Mr. Owens' request to be reappointed and that because the Court has yet to go through the recruitment process, temporarily appoint him to fill the vacancy until a public process has been followed, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Linda Simmons, of TVCC, was present to introduce TVCC President Dana Young; Dr. Al Buyok, Dean of Instruction; Dr. Kathleen Robinson, Associate Dean; and Andrea Testi of the Business Center. She invited the Court to an open house being held today from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Ms. Young took a few minutes to explain her background and plans for the future.

The next item of business was the review of IT Proposals. Proposals received were from ATS/AccTech Solutions for \$27,000.00; Joshua Ward for \$48,600.00 and Eastern Oregon Technology for \$28,800.00. All Proposal amounts were on an annual basis. Judge Grasty suggested reviewing the proposals in depth and making a decision at the next Court meeting.

Judge Grasty presented several letters/documents for information only.

Judge Grasty said that ODFW Commission's next meeting is on August 5<sup>th</sup> in Salem to discuss Sage Grouse; he noted that both he and Commissioner Nichols have five minute spots on the agenda.

Correspondence was reviewed from: DEQ – Approval of the 2010 Harney Wasteshed Opportunity to Recycle Program; DEQ – Approval of the Annual Recertification of Financial Assurance and Department of Revenue – Certification of Harney County's participation in the County Assessment Function Assistance (CAFFA) Program providing an estimated \$176,182 in grant dollars; no action was necessary.

The Court recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. and went into Executive Session.

The Court came out of Executive Session at 2:25, no action was taken.

Tim Colahan, District Attorney/County Counsel was present with an Intergovernmental Agreement between Harney County and the Department of Justice for Dependency Funding. A short discussion ensued. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the IGA between Harney County and the Department of Justice for Dependency Funding, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Nichols presented a sample of certification standards for weed inspection at gravel and rock sites for discussion. Mr. Colahan stated that the standards need to be adopted by Resolution.

The Court discussed upcoming meetings. A joint meeting with Lake County to follow-up on the Building Program and the Onsite Septic Program was discussed. Judge Grasty said he would get some possible dates that work for Lake County.

Mr. Colahan came back in with the final draft of closing documents for Harney Behavioral Health/Symmetry Care. It was decided that the documents would be signed at the next County Court meeting, July 20, 2011.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Johnson  
Administrative Assistant  
Harney County Court