

**Harney County Court Meeting  
October 5, 2011**

→The Harney County Court convened October 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steve Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steven E. Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Pete Runnels. Also attending all or portions of the meeting were; Maria Iturriaga, County Clerk; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director; Nellie Franklin, County Treasurer.

→Public attending all or portions of the meeting were Barbara Cannady Karen Moon, Charley Otley and Tammera Downs of the Burns Times-Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the September 21, 2011 minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed by the court and vouchers approved by their signature.

→County Clerk Maria Iturriaga administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Justice of the Peace, Matthew R. Fine.

→Judge Grasty gave the Court an update regarding the sage grouse strategy.

→The Court Received the Road Supervisor's report In the matter of the Road Vacation Hearing, to be held on October 19, 2011.

→The court discussed the proposals for County Surveyor. None are local. Each is qualified and competent. The court wants to ask them to come and sit and discuss the logistics and costs associated with the responsibilities. The Court hopes that eventually a firm would set up and do business here. The court will schedule a face to face meeting with proposers, and would like to ask for proposals from each of the three.

→Commissioner Runnels moved to sign the Order Appointing the Pool of members to the Harney County Board of Property Tax Appeals, Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols moved to appoint Gail Buermann to the Mental Health Advisory Committee, Commissioner Runnels second, the motion carried unanimously.

→Judge Grasty stated that the library was burglarized last night, and explained some cash was stolen, and the incident is under investigation by Burns Police, and the Harney County Sheriff's Office.

→The Court discussed a letter of support for a re-appointment to the Steens Mountain Advisory Council. Commissioner Runnels moved to send a letter in support of Bill Renwick for Re-appointment to the SMAC. Commissioner Nichols second and the motion carried unanimously.

→The Court reviewed the BLM Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record on the Radar Hill Off-Highway Vehicle Staging Area Site Improvement.

→The Court discussed the possible closure of several rural post offices, specifically Crane and Riley Post Offices. There is a meeting in Riley on October 11<sup>th</sup>, Crane on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and Drewsey on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Senator Merkley has been working to keep this from happening. Members of the court plan to at least attend each meeting individually.

→Brandon McMullen, Planning Director provided the court with a draft Ordinance in the matter of Amending the Harney County Comprehensive Plan Mineral and Aggregate Inventory and the Application of the MARO zone. Judge Grasty read Ordinance 2011-69 aloud by title only. Commissioner Nichols moved to Adopt Ordinance 2011-69, as read by title only, in the matter of amending the Harney County Comprehensive Plan Mineral and Aggregate Inventory and the Application of the MARO zone, Commissioner Runnels second, and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Runnels moved to approve again Ordinance 2011-69 as read by title only, Judge Grasty second, and the motion carried unanimously.

→Angie Johnson and Tom Andrade, of Oregon Dept of Forestry were present to discuss wildfire protection.

→The court reviewed a letter from State BLM Director, Ed Shepard.

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

→The court discussed the position of Director of Public Health, Home Health and Hospice, and whether or not it should be split to more than one position, when Mrs. Keniston retires as Director. Prior to the current director, they were separate positions. No decision was made.

→The Court discussed scenarios related to a Goal 5 update of the Comprehensive Plan.

→At 2:10 p.m. The Court continued the hearing on the Appeal of the Otley Farm Welling. (A complete audio transcript of this hearing is on file in the Office of the County Clerk). In summary, Judge Grasty believed that the facts support the approval of the original application. Commissioner Nichols reviewed his findings, and concurred with the Planning Commission's decision to approve the original Petition. Judge Grasty moved to uphold the decision of the Harney County Planning Commission in its entirety,

and work with Ms. Lewis to complete the findings. Commissioner Nichols second. Judge Grasty stated that an additional condition was requested, related to the dweller being principally engaged in agriculture, He believes that is circular argument that is already a condition. Judge Grasty called for the vote: Judge Grasty voting YEA, Commissioner Nichols voting YEA, and Commissioner Runnels ABSTAINED.

→State Representative Cliff Bentz was present and gave the court a post-session legislative update.

→The Court reviewed their draft findings in the matter of the Appeal by Oregon Natural Desert Association of the Otley Farm Dwelling, in preparation for signature.

There being no further business, the Court adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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