HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

July 3, 2012

→The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, July 3, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioners Dan Nichols and Peter Runnels. Also attending all or portions of the meeting were Road Supervisor Eric Drushella; Natural Resources County Counsel Ron Yockim, Human Resource Administrator LaDene Hurd; and Chief Deputy County Clerk, Derrin Robinson.

→Also attending were Bob Miles, Barbara Cannady, Herb Vloedman, Jennifer Jenks and Susan Bush.

→ Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the June 20, 2012 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Comment:

→Herb Vloedman spoke to report he had returned from South Korea where he attended Lions International Convention, and reported Harney District EMS had received $75,000 for the replacement ambulance from the Lions. He also wanted to thank the court for moving forward with referring to the voters the issue of Commissioners as nonpartisan positions. He also wanted to ask what the selection process was in reviewing a road issue, and wanted to know how the court made decisions on road issues, specifically the Court's decision to a accept the Deed from Oregon Dept. of Transportation at the June 20 Court meeting. A discussion ensued and Judge Grasty explained that each issue has to be taken basis by basis, as none of them are the same. Commissioner Nichols asked what he thought should have been done differently. Judge Grasty explained that it is a local access road, and the county will not spend any resources on it. Commissioner Nichols asked Mr. Vloedman what his concern was on this issue. Mr. Vloedman stated that in this case, the court did the work, and in the recent Meadowland Ranches matter, the landowners were told to do the work. Commissioner Nichols stated that the issue at Meadowlands is completely different as the easement is between private landowners all the way through. Judge Grasty said the other issue was between two public entities, one being the County.

→Barbara Cannady read aloud research she had done regarding the Rangeland Agreements with the BLM, and presented the court with the document.

Old Business:

→Judge Grasty reviewed correspondence received.

→Judge Grasty updated the Court on the status of the Sage Grouse issue.

→The Court reviewed Notices of Water use requests, there were no objections to any request.

→In the Matter of Resolution 2012-11 Extending Worker's Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of Harney County, Commissioner Nichols moved to adopt the resolution, Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Runnels reported on the Oregon Geographic Name Board meeting that he attended. There was discussion regarding the tribal names suggested to the board and most were approved. The court discussed the O'Toole / Bartlett naming issue that was discussed at the last Court meeting, and said that the board tabled that decision until more information could be obtained.

→Judge Grasty stated that the court is advertising for membership on the Forest Urban Interface Committee. He stated that he too, would like to be involved with that Committee. Mr. Vloedman stated that he had property north of town. Judge Grasty asked if he could put his name down and he agreed. Applicants will be reviewed and appointed on July 18th.

→Commissioner Nichols update the court on the Wolf Committee, and stated that Andy Dobrinin and Denny Thomas are willing to serve on the committee, and Dr. Maisy Custis agrees to serve as Veterinarian on the Committee. Commissioner Nichols moved to Appoint Andy Dobrinin and Denny Thomas to the Wolfe Committee. Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

→The Court met with Linda Neal, and her attorney Tom Sullivan by phone, Barbara Cannady and her attorney Tyler Smith by phone, and Gary Marshall, regarding A.E Brown Road. Judge Grasty stated the reason for the meeting was that in a recent vacation process, the county found reason not to vacate the road, as in the best interest of the public. Ms. Cannady presented a map that was submitted during part of the earlier settlement discussions. A very lengthy discussion ensued. Final resolution of this issue will be agreed upon by the parties, that 1) the parties will recognize that the A.E. Brown Road does exist, and the County will work with ODOT to create the approach, 2) The fence down the middle of that road will be removed, in a craftsman like manner, in so that the material can be re-used, and 3) the County will issue a permit to install a locked gate across the East-West road at both ends, reserving that it is able for public use, if necessary, as controlled by the County, with a key system to be agreed upon by The County and Ms. Cannady, but specifically for use by the County Road master, and Ms. Cannady. Judge Grasty stated that County Counsel Ron Yockim will prepare a draft agreement for the parties to review.

→Judge Grasty reminded the Court that there is a scheduled special court meeting for the sole purpose of approving vouchers, on July 9th.

→There being no further business, The Court adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrin Robinson, CRA; CEA
Chief Deputy Harney County Clerk