

**Harney County Court Meeting  
January 18, 2012**

→The Harney County Court convened January 18, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steven E. Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Pete Runnels. Also attending were, Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Mary Ausmus, Herb Vloedman, Jennifer Jenks from The Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the January 4, 2012 as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Mary Ausmus inquired as to the purpose of Justice Court now since it has changed as we know it. Judge Grasty stated there has been much conversation with individuals, mainly with Judge Cramer and the District Attorney, in regards to Justice Court and they've concluded it is an absolute necessity, Justice Court still will deal with small claims and violations as well as old cases pending as those will not be transferred to circuit court. All felonies and misdemeanors will be in circuit court. Judge Grasty mentioned there is no news on a new appointment for Justice of the Peace.

→Judge Grasty updated the court Sage grouse issue. He stated he will keep this issue on the agenda until resolved.

→Judge Grasty made a motion to enter into an Agreement with the BLM whereby Harney County is a cooperating agency on the sage grouse planning issue. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Chris Siegner, Director of Symmetry Care was in attendance to present six month update report. He stated that access to services are the same as previous under Harney Behavioral Health, he presented statistical and financial overview. He explained goals and objectives stated he feels good as they are keeping continuity with no disruption to services provided. They do have some billing issues which they are working to resolve. Commissioner Runnels suggested Symmetry Care set a financial goal as per contract with the County.

→Guy McKay, Harney County Veterans Services Officer and Angie Iturbide, Senior Center Director were in attendance to present the quarterly update in regards to Veterans' Services. He's been asked to expand his weekly radio show to other counties and wanted to know if the

court had any issues with it. The court by consensus was agreeable however they suggested he discuss it with the other service officers from those counties. Ms. Iturbide was asked about the financial side, she stated that financially is paying its way so there were no problems.

→Darrell Williams, Community Service Supervisor was in attendance to update the court on the job they've been doing, he stated there had been tremendous hours served by community service for 2011. He also informed the court that community service individuals have been keeping up to date with court's orders. Jobs they've been involved in included cleaning up the cities and some out of county.

→Mr. Williams updated the court on the snowmobile conference which will be held in Burns this weekend. He requested a contribution from county. It was the consensus of the court to donate personally but not a county contribution.

→The court briefly discussed the appointment of a Harney County Advisory Wolf Committee. Judge Grasty made a motion to appoint Commissioner Nichols, Bill Wilber, Larry Otley, Julie Wiekell and Joan Suther to the Harney County Advisory Wolf Committee, and to authorize Commissioner Nichols to fill a vacancy in case any of the mentioned names are unwilling to participate. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Grant application for Wolf Compensation Program is due to ODA by February 15, 2012.

→Judge Grasty presented a draft of General Principles and Standards for Evaluating Impacts and Mitigation in Sage Grouse Habitat in Harney County for the court's review. Judge Grasty requested the commissioners share thoughts, if any, for modification for next county court meeting.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to submit AOC Legislative Issue Form. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Signing of Annual Orders:**

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the Order appointing Scott Spence, M.D. as the County Health Officer for year 2012. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to sign the Order appointing Julie Burri as Harney County Medical Investigator for year 2012. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to sign the Order appointing Sandra L. Richards, Stephen Finlayson and Matthew R. Fine as Harney County Justices of the Peace Pro Tempore for year 2012. Judge Grasty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to appoint Judge Steven E. Grasty as Budget officer for 2012. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2012-01 In The Matter of Appropriating Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition dealing with Taylor Grazing Fund. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Judge Grasty opened proposals for Forest Health Grant Funds. Proposals were received from Timber Contracting Tony Hauth and Joseph's Juniper Inc. A committee will review the proposals and make recommendation to the court.

→Executive session as authorized by ORS 192.660 (d) (i) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations and to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, or public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing convened at 1:50 p.m. Out of executive session at 2:40 p.m.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to use LGPI to carry on labor negotiations with the Harney County Deputy Sheriff's Association. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court scheduled two more interviews for the Home Health Director position for January 24<sup>th</sup> 1-3 p.m. and will make sure the individuals are available.

→Judge Grasty shared several correspondences with the court.

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

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC  
Harney County Clerk