

## **Harney County Court Meeting**

January 4, 2012

The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 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 were Nellie Franklin, County Treasurer, County Road Supervisor Eric Drushella and County Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. Public attending were Gena Harvey of OSU Extension, Jennifer Jenks of the Burns Times Herald, Barbara Kull, Barbara Cannady, Herb Vloedman and James Arndt.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the December 21, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

During Public Comment Barbara Kull asked about the status of the Drone Project in Harney County as she had seen one over her property a couple of weeks before Christmas. Judge Grasty said that the Court had helped coordinate a meeting with the drone company and the local pilots a couple of years ago but that nothing has progressed out of Central Oregon or locally since that time.

Judge Grasty suggested holding a work session in the afternoon to discuss several upcoming issues. He then began a short discussion regarding the BLM Record of Decision for the North Steens 230kV Transmission Line project.

Gena Harvey of the OSU Extension Service was present to explain the Extension Service's new Master Gardener program. Ms. Harvey noted that she is the Coordinator for the program and that classes will be held every Thursday from 5:30 to 9 p.m. beginning on January 19. She said there is a slight cost for the program to cover expenses and that at the end of the program participants will graduate as Master Gardeners but are required to provide 40 hours of service (in a related activity) before getting their certificate. She went on to explain all aspects of the program; budgeting issues were discussed as well. Consensus was that the money for the program would run through the Extension line in the County's budget. Ms. Harvey mentioned that the instructors are volunteers and would only be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to re-appointment Holly Smith to a three year term to the Harney County Budget Board. Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty started a discussion regarding the appointment of a Local Advisory Committee to the Harney County Sage Grouse Mitigation Plan. After a lengthy

discussion Judge Grasty said that he would get an ad out soliciting members for the Committee. Commissioner Nichols then suggested using the Cooperative Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) committee as the driving force; possibly creating a subcommittee.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to sign the Order Designating an Official Newspaper, the Burns Times Herald, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty noted that there are several more annual Orders that will be ready for approval at the next County Court meeting.

The Court then discussed the resignation of Justice of the Peace Matt Fine due to retirement issues with PERS. Judge Fine has agreed to stay until the end of the month of January. Judge Grasty has approached the Governor's office about appointing someone to fill the position by February 1, 2012. The Governor's office responded that they would meet and discuss the course of action and get back to Judge Grasty by noon today (Wednesday, January 4, 2012). The Court will discuss a list of Pro Tempore candidates at the next meeting.

The Court discussed at length the draft criteria to be used in the Request for Proposals for the awarding of Forest Health Grant funds in the amount of \$100,000.00. Consensus of the Court was: 1) use the draft criteria as guidelines, 2) appoint a committee of three to review applications, 3) applications will be sent to committee members for review and 4) recommendations by the committee should be back to the Court by February 1.

Mr. Drushella provided an update regarding activities of the Road Department in light of the fact that there is no snow to plow.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.; a Work Session is scheduled to be held from 1 to 4 p.m. and then the Court will reconvene at 4 p.m. with the Planning Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Johnson".

Sharon Johnson  
Secretary, Harney County Court