

Harney County Court Meeting

October 17, 2012

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 17, 2012. Members attending were Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels (Judge Grasty's absence, due to medical reasons, was excused). Also present were County Road Supervisor Eric Drushella and Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. County Assessor/Tax Collector Ted Tiller and EMS Director Jeff Sceirine were present for portions of the meeting. Public attending were: Randy Parks, Mary Ausmus and Barbara Cannady.

Commissioner Nichols led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2012 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded. Commissioner Nichols noted that Barbara Cannady had requested a correction to those minutes; Ms. Cannady then explained that her request was for clarification, in the minutes, on the legal description used in the Agreement between her and the County. Discussion followed. Ms. Cannady's request was noted; minutes were approved as originally submitted, the motion carried unanimously.

There was no Public Comment.

The Court discussed changing the date of the second November County Court meeting because of the Thanksgiving holiday. It was the consensus of the Court to hold the meeting on Tuesday, November 20th.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to appoint Cheryl Norton to replace Barb Chambers as the hospital representative to the Harney County Mental Health Advisory Committee as recommended by the Committee, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Assessor/Tax Collector Ted Tiller explained the Summary of Assessment and Tax Roll for 2012-13 taxes imposed. A short discussion followed. Mr. Tiller also provided an explanation on the 3% increase that normally takes place on property every year. He noted that the 3% increase is required by Oregon Statute (due to the passage of Measure 50 in 1997) and cannot be avoided. He went on to explain the laws and measures associated with property taxes. He said that the driving force behind the passage of Measure 50 was that people would know how much their taxes would increase whereas previous to the measure taxes increased based on Real Market Value which could be more than 3%. He then covered the question about whether Taxing Districts have to impose the 4.5016% permanent rate; he said that by law they

do not; they can choose to impose *UP TO* 4.5016%. Each Taxing District makes the decision about the rate they will impose; the County does not have the authority to make that decision for them. Discussion followed.

Jeff Sceirine, EMS Director, explained the Harney County Ambulance Service Area Plan and his recent review of that Plan as requested by Judge Grasty. He described the changes that have been made. The ASA provider contract must be out for bid every five years. Discussion followed.

The Court reviewed the Department of Environmental Quality 2011 Material Recovery Report with no action being necessary.

A letter from the USDA regarding informational meetings and deadlines regarding the Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process was reviewed. No action necessary.

Mr. Drushella commented that the Road Department had begun the work (today) on the approach to Barbara Cannady's property and would move the fence when the approach was finished.

Commissioner Nichols noted several upcoming meetings scheduled for Monday, October 22nd: Post Fire Tactical Team meeting at 9 a.m.; SEACT Teleconference at 1 p.m., and a suggested Sage Grouse meeting, time unknown.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

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

Sharon Johnson
Secretary, Harney County Court