

Harney County Court Meeting

November 7, 2012

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 7, 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. Public attending: Samantha White; Barbara Cannady was present for portions of the meeting.

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 17, 2012 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

No Public Comment.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to sign the Bargain and Sale Deed for Tom and Marian Chulos, for county owned property they purchased recently at auction, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Runnels explained the reasons for making an appointment to the Housing Authority of Malheur County Board noting that the Board also covers for Harney County. He said that with the appointment of Richard A. Day there will be three people from Harney County on the Board. Discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to appoint Mr. Day, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Harney County, Tom Sharp, was present to provide an update on Emergency Preparedness issues and projects in the County. He explained the need for the formation of a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) Steering Committee due to the requirement to update the County's current five year NHMP which is expiring in March of 2013. He covered grants applied for and received and several miscellaneous items. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to sign the 2012-13 Maintenance Assistance Program Allocation Agreement with the Oregon State Marine Board, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Certificate of Cost Allocation Plan and Certificate of Indirect Costs for the Public Health Department were reviewed. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the documents, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Department of State Lands Rulemaking Notices were reviewed with no action being necessary.

Water Use Requests for October 23, 30 and November 6 were then reviewed, no action was necessary.

County Planning Director Brandon McMullen provided an update on the Regional Approach for the Consideration of Local Land Use Planning Policies to Protect Sage-Grouse Habitat. He explained that Harney County has been awarded grant funding from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation

and Development to consider possible land use strategies for Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on non-federal lands.

A short discussion was held regarding the work that County Natural Resources Attorney Ron Yockim is doing on the ONDA lawsuit against BLM pertaining to their Record of Decision on the Echanis Transmission Line Project. Mr. McMullen provided background information on the project. Ms. Cannady asked about the status of the wind power project. Commissioner Nichols stated that it is still sitting in litigation.

Commissioner Nichols mentioned that he had attended the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) meeting on Monday; he explained that it is the Board that is looking at changing the Education Service District (ESD) system. He gave a brief description of what was covered at the meeting.

A short discussion was held regarding other meetings being attended by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Runnels noted that Representative Bentz is planning to attend the December 5th Community Revitalization Team (CRT) meeting to discuss legislative issues and priorities before the start of the 2013 Legislative Session. The meeting will be held at the Community Center starting at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Runnels explained that he had signed the ODS Community Health, Inc. Participating Provider Agreement between ODS and Harney County Health Department. In the course of providing health insurance and health benefit plans, ODS contracts with Providers (such as the Health Department) on behalf of both ODS and Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, LLC.

Everybody was reminded that the next County Court meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 20th in light of the Thanksgiving Holiday being on the 22nd.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sharon Johnson,
Secretary, Harney County Court