

Harney County Court Meeting

December 19, 2012

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 19, 2012. Court members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also present were County Sheriff Dave Glerup, County Planning Director Brandon McMullen and Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. Public attending were Samantha White and Barbara Cannady.

Judge Grasty 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 December 5, 2012 meeting, noting that they are the final meeting minutes submitted by retiring County Clerk Maria Iturriaga, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

There was no Public Comment.

Sheriff Dave Glerup reported on the four construction workers who had been stranded on the top of the Steens Mountain on Saturday, December 15 due to a severe storm. The Sheriff wanted to give credit to those involved in the three day rescue effort. He noted that Search and Rescue (SAR) President Matt Fine and SAR member Ron Copeland handled all of the administrative duties. The following snowmobilers spent many hours and their own resources in the rescue effort: Darrell Williams, Mike Choate, Aba Choate, Alex Choate, Scott Koenig, Tim Clemens, Jack Bauer, Ken Brinkley, Junior Hurd, Mike Huseby, Jake Huseby, Nick Dunn and Dennis Dunn. BLM District Manager Brendan Cain opened up the BLM compound in Frenchglen as a staging area; George Orr, John Petty and Ken Brinkley of the BLM helped with logistics. County Road Supervisor Eric Drushella loaned a pickup and provided the fuel for the groomer that was used and the Oregon National Guard brought in the Black Hawk helicopter. Cost recuperation was discussed briefly following the Sheriff's report on the rescue effort.

Fred Flippence was present on behalf of the Harney County Library Foundation to update the Court on the finances. He stated that the Fund Balance for the Luce Fund, as of September 30, 2012 was \$1,836,265.06. He said that the fund started at \$1,750,000.00 in 2007 and since then that they have dispersed back to the County, for support of the Library, \$326,859.00. He also reported briefly on the Oregon Community Foundation. Mr. Flippence then mentioned that the Library has recovered \$11,000.00, out of \$30,000.00, from the embezzlement case from a few years ago. He talked about several fundraisers that have been done or are in the works for the Library. Discussion followed.

County Planner Brandon McMullen was present to explain and discuss the Collaborative County Sage Grouse Memorandum of Agreement. He said, "it is an Agreement of, essentially, the importance to collaborate on the consideration of what we have in place and how we can develop potential strategies and maybe even policies, regulatory and non-regulatory for counties to use if they so choose". A lengthy discussion ensued. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the signing of the MOA, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty provided an update on SB360, the Oregon Forestland Interface Fire Protection Act.

Judge Grasty noted that the Court would go into Executive Session at 1:15 p.m. as provided by ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Mr. McMullen then presented a list of county lands that are available for sale. Judge Grasty suggested postponing the decision making on those parcels until the next Court meeting in order to gather more information on each parcel; this would include the application by Bill Burstow for one of the parcels. Discussion followed.

Judge Grasty brought up the red flashing light, that was recently placed on top of Burns Butte, and his wish to have the light removed. It can be seen from Diamond Valley, Hampton and Wagontire. Judge Grasty noted that it was not required by the County Planning Department when the permit for construction was purchased nor was it required by the FAA. Judge Grasty said he would take on the project to find out if it is indeed required.

The Court then discussed the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization Community Advisory Councils with Commissioner Runnels explaining his participation.

Judge Grasty provided an update on the last SageCon meeting.

Commissioner Nichols provided an update on the Western Juniper group. Discussion followed.

Judge Grasty went through numerous items that have recently been received in County Court: including the Governor's Budget; ODOT Traffic Volumes; upcoming CIS Insurance meeting notice; a final letter notifying the County and the Governor that a piece of property has been sold to Alan and Ethel Bossuot; Oregon Health Authority Communicable Disease report; Southeast Resource Plan Amendment and Scoping Report from the Vale BLM District; a Memorandum of Understanding from Wisewood; the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and lastly a map showing the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposed boundary - the purpose of the CFLRP is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.

Commissioner Nichols provided an update on the Hub project and several other issues he has been working on.

The meeting was recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m. at which time the Court went into Executive Session. The Court came out of Executive Session at 2 p.m. without making any decisions.

The discussion reverted back to SB360 for a short time.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Sharon Johnson
Administrative Assistant