HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

March 7, 2012

→The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioners Dan Nichols and Peter Runnels. Also attending all or portions of the meeting were Road Supervisor Eric Drushella, Angie Iturbide, Senior Services Director; Teri Cain, Commission on Children and Families Director and Chief Deputy County Clerk, Derrin Robinson.

→Also attending were Barbara Cannady, Herb Vloedman, David McDonald, and Randy Parks, of the Burns Times-Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the February 15, 2012 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

→Barbara Cannady, of www.Fizzleflat.com invited all of the primary election candidates to provide her with statements about their candidacy, for her blog.

→The Court reviewed an Order Appointing a County Health Officer for 2012. Commissioner Runnels moved to appoint Dr. Sharon King, County Health officer for 2012. Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously.

→Judge Grasty wished to start the 45 day comment period for title III Projects.

→The Court reviewed an application for an approach off of Drewsey Rd. court Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the approach, as recommended by the Road Supervisor. Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

→The Court reviewed an Intergovernmental Agreement between Harney and Grant County for Licensing Inspection and Enforcement of Public Facilities. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement as presented, Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

→Angie Iturbide and Barbara Higginbotham were present to discuss Communities in Action programs.

→Howard Weathers, Program Manager, was present to discuss the close out of the DEQ woodstove change out program.

→Judge Grasty and Commissioner Nichols shared an update on their attendance at the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. March 3-6, 2012. They argued the need for forest management, visited the Oregon delegation and other county commissioners from throughout the country about the issues affecting rural counties.

→Teri Cain, Director of the Harney County Commission on Families outlined the coming changes to the state and local Commissions on Children and Families.

→The Court reviewed the Jackson County Federal Coordination Policy Compact, and discussed the concept. Judge Grasty explained the concept, as it is a balance of co-ordination and cooperation. There are pros and cons to this concept. Commissioner Runnels is supportive of County Counsel review of the idea. The court agreed by consensus to review it further.

→The Court discussed "roadless" areas in Harney County, and "roaded" areas in Harney County, and creating a "road inventory". The basis for the inventory is to defend roaded areas in terms of conservation issues. Judge Grasty wants to check with Lake and Malheur Counties did to organize the same kind of project, and go from there.

→The Court discussed Integrated Water Resources Strategy, and reviewed notices of water use requests. There were no objections to any request.

→The Court reviewed a letter to Roaring Springs Ranch from the Bureau of Land Management in the matter of Denying Grazing Use within Tombstone Pasture of South Steens Allotment for the 2012 grazing season.

→The Court reviewed a letter regarding Oregon Board of Geographic Names' effort to remove "squaw" from geographic sites in Eastern Oregon.

→The Court reviewed a letter from Oregon Dept. of Forestry regarding implementation of the Oregon Forestland-Urban interface Fire Protection Act.

→There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin Robinson, CRA CEA
Chief Deputy County Clerk