

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2012

→The Harney County convened December 5, 2012 in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steven E. Grasty and Commissioner Peter Runnels. Commissioner Nichols was attending a meeting of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan and will join the county court meeting later. Also present was Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were; Barbara Canady, Terri Cain, Samantha White and Dana Ketcher.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the November 20, 2012 county court minutes as mailed. Judge Grasty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed and vouchers approved by court's signature.

Public comment

→Barbara Cannady inquired on the outcome of a meeting held regarding the Eastern Oregon Academy. Judge Grasty informed her that a meeting was called by Oregon Youth Authority and Oregon's Department of Human Services and that he attended. Commissioner Runnels commented that he also was there as an invited participant. Judge Grasty also commented that any recording requirements would have been the responsibility of the agencies who called the meeting and he suggested she contact them.

→Ms. Cannady also commented on the unemployment rate in Harney County and regarding the meeting of November 20, 2012 where application #17996 for a permit to build an approach was presented and signed by the court. (Ms. Cannady's comments in writing can be found in the packet of these minutes at the Clerk's office.)

→Judge Grasty made a motion to request AOC to appoint Judge Grasty to the AOC legislative committee. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Dana Ketcher, Public Health Vista volunteer was in attendance to update the court on the arsenic levels in drinking water in Harney County which is a project she's currently working on. It was the consensus of all that this subject in no way would become sensationalized as this is a natural occurrence event.

→The court reviewed an application by Bill Burstow to purchase county owned land described as 41S35E20 acct. #48071. Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor expressed concerns because of the location as it might be a potential public use for an aggregate or stockpile site. More discussion will ensue when Commissioner Nichols arrives.

→Tom Sharp, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, was in attendance to discuss and recommend a plan developer for Harney County's Natural Mitigation Plan update. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to select Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR) at the University of Oregon as facilitator and developer of Harney County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) update process and sign documents as presented establishing the partnership. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Mr. Sharp updated the court on other various projects he had participated in and will be participating.

→The court along with Mr. Sharp had a lengthy discussion regarding efforts by the state to prevent listing of Sage Grouse in Oregon. Judge Grasty stated in the view of many around the state Harney County is way ahead of everyone else on this issue. He told the court he will stay on this issue as this is very important to the community.

→There was some discussion in regards to checkerboard lands in Harney County.

→Judge Grasty and Brandon McMullen, Planning Director updated the court in regards to legislative concept #1631 for transmission line and being a land use action. By consensus the court stated they are not supportive as there is not enough information. Commissioner Nichols stated he does not have a conflict of interest as there has never been any talk of easements or anything else regarding transmission lines crossing any land he owns.

→Discussion continued on the sale of county owned property with Commissioner Nichols being present. It was the consensus of the court to check records and direct Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor to go visit the site. The court will also join him in this tour. A decision on this matter will be made at next county court meeting December 19, 2012.

→The Court reviewed Notices of Water Use Requests from Oregon Water Resources Department. No objections were expressed by the court to any of the requests.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk