HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

August 1, 2012

→The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, August 1, 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 Brandon McMullen, Planning Director; Road Supervisor Eric Drushella; Randy Fulton, Economic Development Coordinator; Tom Sharp, Emergency Management Coordinator, and Chief Deputy County Clerk, Derrin Robinson.

→Also attending were Barbara Cannady, Jennifer Jenks, Randy Fulton, Kate Marsh, and Randy Parks,

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the July 18, 2012 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Comment:

→Barbara Cannady asked about an update on the wind project. Judge Grasty stated that nothing moves until the lawsuit moves. The project is on stand still until the litigation is complete.

→Ms. Cannady also presented a letter regarding the status Brown Rd. Matter.

→In the Matter of Proposed Ordinance # 2012-70, Amending the Harney County Zoning Ordinance Sections 9.030 & 9.040 to Update Appeal Procedures, Commissioner Nichols moved to read the proposed ordinance by title only, Commissioner Runnels second, and the motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols moved to sign and adopt Ordinance # 2012-70 as Read by Title Only, Commissioner Runnels second, and the motion carried unanimously. (*Commissioner's Journal 2012-47)*

→In the Matter of Ordinance #2012-71, Referring to the Voters the Question of Whether the Offices of County Commissioner should become Nonpartisan beginning with the Primary Election of May, 2014; Referred for the November, 2012 General Election, Commissioner Runnels moved to Read by title only. Commissioner Nichols second, and asked if an emergency clause was necessary. Legal Counsel advised that statute exempts a referral to the voters from an Emergency Clause. The motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Runnels moved to sign and adopt Ordinance # 2012- 71 as read by title only, Commissioner Nichols second, Judge Grasty voting *aye*, Commissioner Nichols voting *aye*, and Commissioner Runnels voting *aye*, the motion carried unanimously. *(Commissioner's Journal 2012-45)*

→Commissioner Runnels moved to sign a Court Order In the Matter of the Adoption of a Notice of Election to Refer Ordinance #2012-71 to the Voters of Harney County at the General Election of November 6, 2012 To Determine Whether to Treat Offices of County Commissioner as Nonpartisan, beginning in 2014. Commissioner Nichols second, and the motion carried unanimously. *(Commissioner's Journal 2012-46)*

→In the matter of the Notice of Decision and Final Order in the Diamond Valley Ranch Farm Dwelling Remand, (Land Use file number 2011-097), Planning Director, Brandon McMullen reviewed the Court's proposed findings. The Court made several clerical revisions for final approval. Judge Grasty moved to sign the Notice of Decision and Final Order. Commissioner Nichols second. Judge Grasty voting *aye*, Commissioner Nichols Voting *aye*, Commissioner Runnels *Abstained*, and the motion carried. *(Commissioner's Journal 2012-48)*

→Kate Marsh presented an updated Economic Strategic Plan document to the County Court. She will be presenting this to the CRT later today, and would like comments by August 17. The court wants the blessing of the CRT, The Tribal Council and the City Councils before approval.

→The court discussed the Appointment of a Hospice Medical Director. Dr. Tom Fitzpatrick has resigned from the position due to other commitments, and suggested that Dr. Sharon King be appointed to the position. The contract and order will be presented at the next court meeting.

→Travis Williams and John Witzel, representing the Harney County Stock growers were present to discuss the Miller Homestead Fire. Travis asked what programs are available in the county. Judge Grasty explained that he has been working on disaster declarations. Mr. Williams and Mr. Witzel discussed the possibility of forming an emergency livestock forage program, and hoped the Extension office could help with it. Judge Grasty suggested that a rural rangeland fire protection association be formed in Frenchglen. The assets are available. It just needs the individuals for operation. It would allow the locals to be a part of the prevention and initial attack effort in the future.

→The Court met with Tom Sharp, Emergency Management Coordinator. He updated the Court on the County Fire Defense Board, The State Homeland Security Grant App Submittal to Oregon Emergency Management, and the Public Health Dept. Emergency Preparedness Radio Equipment Project.

→The Court discussed the Sage Grouse Initiative meeting, Surface Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) with ODOT, and the recent Area Commission on Transportation Meeting.

→The court reviewed Correspondence from Governor John Kitzhaber, State Representative Cliff Bentz, The Housing Authority of Malheur County, and the United Dept. of Agriculture Wildlife Services.

→There being no further discussion, the court adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin (Dag) Robinson, CRA; CEA
Chief Deputy Harney County Clerk