

**Harney County Court Meeting
September 5, 2012**

→The Harney County Court convened September 5, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioners Dan Nichols and Peter Runnels. Also attending were, Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor, Planning Director Brandon McMullen, and Chief Deputy County Clerk, Derrin (Dag) Robinson.

→Public attending were, Jennifer Jenks, Don Munkers, Burns City Manager; Herb Vloedman, Barbara Cannady, Linda Neal and Ramona Hoffman, Secretary, City of Hines.

→Commissioner Nichols led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the August 22, 2012 meeting minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

→Barbara Cannady asked when the Elected Officials Compensation Committee was set up, when they met and who was on it. Judge Grasty explained that it was made up of Fred Flippence, Finance Director for Harney Electric; Sharon Davis, Business Manager for ACW, Inc. / Rattlesnake Land & Cattle; and Joyce Moser, Assoc. Vice President of Bank of Eastern Oregon. Judge Grasty explained that it is required to meet annually, by Statute. He explained that they were contacted several months ago, and recently met, without any involvement from the County Court. (*Commissioners Journal 2012-53*)

→Ms. Cannady also provided the court with a copy of correspondence she had received from Oregon Dept. of Transportation.

→Herb Vloedman asked if the compensation committee evaluated all employees or only the elected officials, and if the employees budgeted 1% COLA increase and longevity was taken into consideration. Judge Grasty explained that the Compensation Committee did not evaluate the general employee salaries. The step increase was the Court's decision, and that the increase was not in addition to the 1% COLA increase, it included the 1% COLA previously budgeted on base salaries, excluding longevity, and that it was for all non-represented county employees. The court provided a lengthy explanation and justification for the increase, and reiterated that the salaries are still far below that of comparable counties. Mr. Vloedman stated that he agreed, that the salaries are below for comparable positions, and the increases are justified.

→Jennifer Jenks, of the Burns Times Herald, asked to review the data that the Compensation Committee used. Judge Grasty stated that he would gladly provide it to her after the meeting.

→The Court reviewed an application for an approach off of the north end of Fairgrounds Lane, by Russel Higgins. Upon recommendation of the Road Supervisor and Planning Director, Judge

Grasty moved to approve the approach, Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

→The Court reviewed the disaster declaration by United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

→Tom Davis, Oregon Dept. of Transportation provided the court with a presentation on ODOT's new process used to determine project funding.

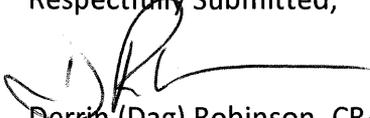
→Jeremy Maestas, Habitat Biologist with USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, provided a presentation on the Sage Grouse Initiative.

→Doug Jones, District Ranger, Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Malheur National Forest, updated the court regarding Title II Projects, specifically the Marshall Devine Project, discussed the Parish Cabin Fire, and reiterated how dangerously dry our forests are, and urged everyone to be careful when enjoying your public lands, as any further fires would be catastrophic.

→The Court reviewed the library "Ready to Read" grant application.

→There being no further business, the Court adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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