

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MINUTES
October 2, 2013

The Harney County Court convened October 2, 2013 in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steven E. Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols, Commissioner Peter Runnels, Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk; Nellie Franklin; County Treasurer and Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor.

Public attending were; Samantha White, Barbara Cannady, Kate Marsh, Donna Schnitker and Patty Dorroh.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the September 18, 2013 County Court minutes as corrected. (Commissioner Runnels noted that John Clemens, Appraiser for the County Assessor, had retired, and stopped in at the last court meeting to say farewell, and thank the court for the opportunity to work for the people of Harney County, and it was inadvertently left out of the minutes.) Judge Grasty seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Financial reports and Accounts Payable were reviewed and approved by signatures of the Court.

Judge Grasty provided a brief update on the sage grouse issue.

Judge Grasty noted that Secure Rural Schools has been funded again this year for one more year, estimated at \$1.3 million to the road dept. The court noted once again, it helps but it is not a permanent fix for the County funding problem. Commissioner Nichols mentioned during Cycle Oregon he heard lots of comments on the quality of our county roads, and thanked the Road dept. for that effort.

Donna Schnitker and Patty Dorroh, from Harney ESD were present to discuss the Early Learning Hub application and obtain final documentation for the submission of the Early learning hub application. Harney and Grant Counties will partner, with Harney County as fiscal agent. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve Judge Grasty's signing of the Frontier Hub Application. Commissioner Runnels second, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Nichols moved for Harney County to hold in reserve, \$100,000 for the sole purpose of demonstrating financial viability as the applicant for an Oregon Early Learning Hub as required by the state, not as a funding obligation for Hub operations should Harney County be a successful applicant for the Frontier Hub. Commissioner Runnels second. Judge Grasty asked County Treasurer Nellie Franklin if it needed to be in a stand-alone fund, or if fund 236 could be used. Several options were discussed, including the possibility of a supplemental budget if necessary. Judge Grasty called for the vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Nichols moved to authorize Judge Grasty to sign the application coversheet. Commissioner Runnels second, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Schnitker thanked Ms. Dorroh for her work on the application process. Members of the court concurred, and stated if we don't get the hub, it was not for lack of effort. Commissioner Nichols stated, "Once again, Harney County stands in a leadership role in moving things forward at the state level for the benefit for Harney County."

The Court reviewed the list of assets from the former drug free communities program. The list included office equipment and supplies. The court allocated the assets to numerous public entities, not-for-profit service providers and internal county departments.

Derrin Robinson, County Clerk reviewed a draft policy regarding the use of business Visa Credit Cards for County purchases and an employee agreement. Robinson explained each Dept. will be assigned a card, and the associated statement will be delivered to that Dept. for reconciliation prior to payment. Each authorized employee will be required to obtain a County employee identification card from the Sheriff's Dept. prior to use of the card. Judge Grasty asked about the billing date. Nellie Franklin, County Treasurer and Mr. Robinson agreed to look in to it upon implementation. After review, Commissioner Runnels moved to sign the Court Order in the Matter of Court Policy on Use of Business Visa Credit Cards for County Purchases and County Employee Agreement, and authorize the County Clerk to implement the program. Judge Grasty Second. Commissioner Nichols explained that he was not in support of this policy, and he understands the convenience of it but feels they system we use now works fine. Judge Grasty stated that he too understands and shares some of Commissioner Nichols concerns, but feels part of this is that some employees simply can't afford to carry these expenses on their own credit cards, and it is unfortunate that the hotel industry more often is not accepting checks for payment. Judge Grasty called for the vote, the motion carried, Judge Grasty voting AYE, Commissioner Runnels voting AYE, Commissioner Nichols voting NO. (CJ-2013-161)

The Court again reviewed a draft Resolution in the matter of reviewing Reserve funds, no action was taken, as further revisions need to be made to the document.

The Court reviewed Resolution 2013-25, In the Matter of Appropriating Excess Expenditures in the Weed Department. Judge Grasty explained that Weed Dept. Supervisor Jim Campbell has applied for some federal funding, and if received, will need to be appropriated. Commissioner Runnels moved, Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously. (CJ-2013-160)

Barbara Cannady asked if there was any news on broadband funding. Judge Grasty stated that he had seen something about some grant funding, but has struggled as to what his or the court's roll should be in that matter. He felt it really is up to the providers, and doesn't feel the county should work on that.

At 1:30 p.m., The Court opened a Public Hearing in the matter of proposed code for wireless telecommunication facilities. Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, noted the planning commission has reviewed this proposed language change, and have approved it. Judge Grasty commended Mr. McMullen for getting cell company buy in on this revision.

Barbara Cannady asked if the landowner was protected for increases in lease income, if more than one company was using the same tower. Mr. McMullen said that would be a private agreement between the landowner, and the tower owner. The Public Hearing closed at 1:55 p.m. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the amendments creating new subsections related to wireless telecommunications, and direct staff to draft the amendment to the ordinance. Commissioner Runnels second, the motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed notices of water use requests, and miscellaneous correspondence. There were no objections to any requests.

There being no further business, the court adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derrin Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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