

Harney County Court Meeting

February 6, 2013

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2013. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also present were Road Supervisor Eric Drushella and Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. Public attending were Samantha White, Barbara Cannady, Herb Vloedman and Jeff Sceirine.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2013 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty noted two changes to the agenda: adding under Old Business, a decision on the application to purchase County owned land in Fields and under New Business, remove Resolution #2013-04 in the Matter of Transferring an Appropriation, upon the advice of County Counsel.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Barbara Cannady asked for an update on air space and the National Guard wanting to expand flight areas. Judge Grasty suggested asking the National Guard to come to County Court and explain. She then raised the issue of having the property taxes for a road right-of-way on her property to be deducted from her property tax bill. The issue was discussed briefly.

Herb Vloedman wished to discuss the nature trail – its usage and maintenance. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

On the topic of Sage Grouse Commissioner Nichols noted at the CCAA was doing very well. A short discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #2013-03 in the Matter of Assignment of Ambulance Service Provider for the Harney County Ambulance Service Area was discussed. Judge Grasty noted that the associated original Ordinance (#29) needs to be updated. An error in the effective dates of the Resolution was noted and corrected. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adopt Resolution #2013-03, as corrected, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business was a letter from the City of Burns Mayor, Craig Lafollette, requesting the appointment of Burns City Manager Don Munkers as the City's representative to the South East Area Commission on Transportation (SEACT). Commissioner Runnels made a motion to appoint Mr. Munkers to the SEACT, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court then reviewed a letter from David Williams, State Director of USDA Wildlife Services, requesting funds for Harney County's Wildlife Services. A lengthy discussion followed. No action taken.

A letter from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services showing the last payment to the County from the Secure Rural Schools Act was reviewed. The County will receive \$1,568,394.39 for the Road Department and \$522,798.13 for schools. Discussion followed. No action taken.

Commissioner Runnels explained the Sage Library System and the Memorandum of Understanding being brought before the Court. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to sign the MOU, Commissioner Nichols seconded, Judge Grasty added to the motion that Commissioner Runnels should sign the MOU as the County's representative on the Library Board, motion carried unanimously.

Tom Davis, ODOT District 14 Assistant District Manager, was present to update the Court on 2015-2018 ODOT projects for Region 5. He noted that there are 51 projects, more than there are funds to cover. He provided lists of projects and went on to describe some of those projects. The complete lists may be viewed at the Courthouse in the County Clerk's Office. A lengthy discussion followed.

The meeting was recessed at 12:10 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

The first item of business following the recess was the appointment of a Budget Board member. Letters of interest were received from five individuals. The Court discussed the process to be used in making a choice; it was the consensus of the Court that they should visit with each of the interested individuals before making a choice. The appointment will be made at the February 20 meeting.

Burns City Manager Don Munkers was present to explain an ACT (Area Commission on Transportation) project being done in the City of Burns. Discussion followed.

The upcoming Legislative schedule was reviewed.

Judge Grasty informed the Commissioners that the Watermaster's Office has been moved and is now located in the office that County Extension Agent Dustin Johnson used to use. He noted that a new Watermaster has not yet been selected.

Water Use Requests were reviewed; no objections were expressed on any of the requests.

Judge Grasty updated the Commissioners on the transition from the old General Ledger software to the new software. He explained the new process and the changes that are being made. Discussion followed.

The Court discussed the application of Bill Burstow to purchase county owned land in Fields. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to put the land up for public auction, the motion died for lack of a second. Further discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to deny the application and return the application fee to Mr. Burstow and the County to retain ownership of the parcel. Ideas were discussed on how to proceed with parcels that are foreclosed on and then come into County ownership. A vote was called for, motion carried, with Judge Grasty and Commissioner Nichols voting Aye and Commissioner Runnels voting Nay.

Commissioner Nichols explained the Children's Trust Fund and the need for the County to be the fiscal agent. He said that the program is a good one and that it is being utilized. No action taken.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Johnson".

Sharon Johnson
County Court Secretary