

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MINUTES
June 5, 2013

The Harney County Court convened June 5, 2013 in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steven E. Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols, and Commissioner Peter Runnels. Also present were Eric Drushella, Road Superintendent; Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk; Kris Renfro, administrative staff, Public Health; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director; Dave Glerup, Sheriff and Brian Needham, Deputy Sheriff.

Public attending were; Samantha White, Herb Vloedman and Barbara Cannady.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Derrin Robinson, County Clerk reviewed several typographical corrections made to the minutes after mailing. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the May 15, 2013 County Court minutes as corrected after mailing. Judge Grasty seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Public comment

Barbara Cannady asked about Water Resources, and the situation with the Watermaster Vacancy. Commissioner Nichols explained that there isn't a Watermaster yet, and Water Resources will re-advertise the position again this fall. The County provides a .25 FTE person, for Clerical staff, and Water Resources has asked to be re arranged hours so that the person is full time during water months. The position is not a full time benefitted position. JR Johnson has been given Watermaster authority in the interim.

Judge Grasty reported that the OO road right of way documentation was filed May 22, 2013.

Judge Grasty provided a brief update on Sage Grouse.

Shana Withee, OSU Extension Agent, was present to discuss the County logo. It is desired that an up to date County logo be designed for official use, which would be simple, adaptable for color or black and white, for use on letter head, uniforms, brochures and vehicles, representative of Harney County culture, landscape and economy. The Court discussed the process being that of a contest. Judge Grasty moved to authorize Shana Withee to form a committee and a process, and authorize the county put up to \$250.00 prize money for the winning artist to create a new county logo. Commissioner Runnels second, and the motion carried unanimously.

Court reviewed road naming applications from Herb Vloedman and Tim Clemens. Commissioner Runnels moved to name Clemens Road, and KB Road, Resolution 2013-15 (CJ-2013-94) Commissioner Nichols second. All owners have signed, and agreed to the names. The motion carried unanimously.

Court reviewed an application for a temporary Stock Guard. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the permit for a temporary stock guard located in T. 29S., R. 30E., Sec. 13, NE/NW. Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

Brandon McMullen, Planning Director and John Jennings, Dept. of Land Conservation and Development were present to discuss a Planning Commission vacancy. David Arntz' position is expiring. Mr. McMullen has advertised, and will bring the names of those showing interest in the position to the court. Mr. McMullen also discussed the Sage-Grouse Conservation Land Use Assessment and Impact Analysis. It basically shows what happened over a 10 year period and in conclusion, under land management practices, and based on bird numbers alone, we have done a good job here. The court reviewed and discussed the Assessment. Judge Grasty stated that he wanted the ability to point to this assessment, that clearly shows, we are doing enough here. The Court will review the draft further, and provided comments to Mr. McMullen.

Mr. McMullen also briefed the court on the Amendments to Community Wildfire protection Plan Update that is currently being worked on.

Dave Glerup, Sheriff; and Deputy Brian Needham were present to discuss with the Court a Harney County Jail Study, included in the study would be using the site the rear of the school building on North Court, along with studying the use of the building for multiple use as "a Justice Center", along with a jail conceptual design. Sheriff Glerup stated there is an incredible cost savings with consolidation of Corrections, Courts, and law enforcement agencies into such facilities. Commissioner Runnels moved to authorize Judge Grasty to sign an agreement with LCA Architects, in order to move forward with this preliminary study. Commissioner Nichols second and the motion carried unanimously.

Julie Burri, Director; Home Health and Hospice, was present and suggested an efficiency study be completed for Home Health and Hospice. Judge Grasty explained that in recent years, the County's Health Service related Depts. have become incredible Cost Centers to the General Fund. Harney is the ONLY County Government that operates a Home Health and Hospice Agency. All others are privately operated. This group will assess the program and suggest changes related to billing, Medicare, and improvements that would result in efficient, cost effective administration of those programs. Commissioner Runnels moved to contract with Corridor Group to provide this Assessment. Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously.

Donna Schnitker, Director of Early Childhood Development for Harney ESD, and Patty Dorroh, Administrative staff for Harney ESD presented the vision for an Early Learning Council (ELC) Hub, and draft By-laws for the proposed Hub Jointly with Grant County as a partner in the proposed Hub.

At 1:30 p.m., the court opened the Public Hearing on the 2013-2014 Budget. At 2:05p.m. Budget Committee Chair Holly Smith Closed the hearing. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the 100, 200, and 300 series funds in the 2013-2014 Harney County budget. Commissioner Runnels second, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Runnels moved to approve the tax rate of 4.5016. Nichols second, motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty thanked the Budget Committee for their service this year.

Judge Grasty stated that County Industrial Building #1 will be vacant at the end of the Month. Judge Grasty suggested the court put in place some criteria, and advertise for proposals to use the building. The Court agreed by consensus.

Tom Sharp, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; reviewed the FEMA Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for Harney County. Commissioner Runnels moved to Adopt Resolution 2013-14, Commissioner Nichols second, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed Misc. correspondence, and Notices of Water Use Requests. There were no objections to any water use requests.

There being no further business, the Court adjourned at 2:45 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