

## HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

July 17, 2013

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2013. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Commissioner Pete Runnels attended by phone from the top of Steens Mountain where he was volunteering at the annual Running Camp. Also present were Road Supervisor Eric Drushella and Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. Public attending were State Representative Cliff Bentz, Samantha White, Barbara Cannady, Herb Vloedman, Jack Smith, Larry Hammond and Slim Steeprow. Present for portions of the meeting were Extension Agent Shana Withee, County Planning Director Brandon McMullen and Malheur Forest Deputy Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 3, 2013 meeting, Judge Grasty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Herb Vloedman reported that the Pole Building Plan process developed by the County Building Department is working as hoped. He also updated the Court on his proposition to honor veterans by using the slogan "We Honor Our Vets" on all Entering Harney County signs. A short discussion followed. Following that discussion Mr. Vloedman asked about the Court's position on the flood plain mapping by FEMA and how it affects the public. Judge Grasty noted that the County is leading the effort in finding relief for the citizens of Harney County who will be required to purchase flood insurance. Discussion followed.

Shana Withee was present with the annual Certificate of Appropriation of Funds for Oregon State University Extension Services. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the Appropriation, Judge Grasty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

State Representative Cliff Bentz was present to provide an update on the Legislative Session. He used a PowerPoint presentation to explain bills he was involved in and their outcomes. Discussion followed.

Steve Beverlin, Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Malheur Forest, was present for a discussion with the County Court on road closures. The Forest Service is proposing to close 11.2 miles of road – down from 90 originally proposed. A lengthy discussion followed. Notification of comment periods was also discussed at length.

Commissioner Runnels reported that he is working on setting up an Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO) meeting with the Court and the Health District Board.

Commissioner Nichols reported that he had attended a Road Coalition meeting. He noted that the Court had instigated the road inventory process knowing that they (the Court members) wouldn't have enough time to do it themselves; he stated appreciation to the Coalition for their efforts.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Johnson,  
Administrative Assistant for  
the Harney County Court