

**HARNEY COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**August 7, 2013**

The Harney County Court convened August 7, 2013 in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steven E. Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols, Commissioner Peter Runnels, Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk; and Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor.

Public attending were; Samantha White, Bill Wilber and Herb Vloedman.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the July 17, 2013 County Court minutes as mailed. Judge Grasty seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

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

**Public comment**

Herb Vloedman suggested reading the article in the *Burns Times-Herald* "Taking down the bird feeder". He then inquired about the RV molds remaining at vacant county industrial building, and asked if the building was available for rent. Judge Grasty stated that the current renter has not vacated the premises yet. Mr. Vloedman asked if any concessions have been made on rent. Judge Grasty stated it has stayed the same for the duration of the contract.

Judge Grasty gave a brief update on the sage grouse matter.

Jesse Barnes, Weed Control Supervisor, was present to bid farewell, as she has resigned to relocate to Wyoming with her family.

During the July 3 County Court meeting the Court recognized receipt of and reviewed a letter from Harney County Health District regarding issues with the Eastern Oregon Community Care Organization and GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.) and the Health District's desire to more closely align with St. Charles Health Care and PacificSource Community Solutions, being a part of the Central Oregon Community Care Organization. Today, representatives of Harney County Health District (HCHD) were present, including Board Members Sam Caizza, Susan Doverspike, Ann Vloedman, Bill Renwick, Dan Brown, and CEO Jim Bishop. A lengthy discussion ensued.

HCHD Board member Dan Brown explained the boards' reasoning for wishing to align with St. Charles Medical Center and read a letter from Board Member Tim Smith. Buck Taylor reiterated their desired affiliation with St. Charles. Susan Doverspike stated the same. Jim Bishop said the long term concern is the OECCO application, and that EOCCO has not accomplished what they said they would do, and EOCCO has no sense of urgency to follow through and be productive. He explained that Blue Mountain

Hospital in John Day and Lake County Hospital are in the same situation, and stated their respective CEOs have the same feelings. Ann Vloedman stated that this is simply what is best for our community. Judge Grasty stated he didn't intend that there would be any disconnect with St. Charles, and didn't understand that would occur in anyway. Brown stated it is about the future of contracts. Judge Grasty asked to not shut the door on EOCCO, and see if it can be repaired. Doverspike stated in all due respect, she feels HDH is simply in the wrong CCO. All of the savings and relationships built are gained by aligning with St. Charles. Judge Grasty stated they need to call the Director of Oregon Health Authority and explain the issues, and mention there are 2 other counties in the same situation, and it needs to be resolved immediately. Health district board member Dan Brown and Commissioner Runnels will meet tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. at Judge Grasty's office, and call OHA for research of options.

The Court discussed the fact that the Burns Employment Dept. office may become only staffed three days a week and the many detriments to that. Judge Grasty is urging the Director to reconsider this, as they are doing this backwards; the communities with higher unemployment rates need more coverage for services, rather than less. He said the State Director will be here on the 26<sup>th</sup> and will discuss it with him.

Judge Grasty reviewed misc. correspondence.

Commissioner Nichols reported Governor Kitzhaber will be in Burns August 16 for presentations to the Western Juniper Utilization Group. He noted the Governor is and has been very supportive in regards to use of natural resources here in Harney County. Judge Grasty commended Commissioner Nichols for his work on western juniper utilization. His endeavors have put projects on the ground. It has been a focus, for him and his efforts are commended.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting of the county court will be at 4:00 p.m., August 21, 2013 for the purpose of approving financial reports and accounts payable.

The Court reviewed a proposal to replace the aging central copier/scanner/printer. Dag Robinson, County Clerk explained the proposal. The current central networked copier/scanner/printer was purchased in 2005 and has 2.25 million copies through it. It is becoming outdated, and hard to get parts for. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the intermediate procurement of the replacement machine. Commissioner Runnels second, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Robinson mentioned the need for the County to look into the use of credit cards for purchases, and he had discussed the matter with Nellie Franklin, Treasurer; as well. He explained that many Hotels now do not accept checks, and the current policy of paying with a County check for lodging has become impossible. Robinson does not feel it is appropriate that the County expect employees to carry credit card balances to get reimbursed for lodging expenses for county business. Robinson noted the Sheriff's Dept. has gone ahead independently and provided cards to Dept. staff for this purpose. Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor agreed. He provided an example of the benefit as well. The court was open to discussion regarding credit cards and asked Mr. Robinson to gather use policies from other counties for review.

Commissioner Nichols thanked Mr. Drushella for rolling the chip seal on recent road projects, and believes there is a benefit to it.

There being no further business, the Court adjourned at 12:30 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