

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MINUTES
September 18, 2013

The Harney County Court convened September 18, 2013 in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steven E. Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols, Commissioner Peter Runnels, Cheryl Hancock, Library Director; Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk; Eric Drushella, County Roadmaster; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director and Howard Palmer, Building Codes Technician.

Public attending were; Samantha White, Barbara Cannady, Kate Marsh, Barbara Skillman, and Karen Hendrickson.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels moved to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2013, and the September 4, 2013 meeting as mailed. Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously.

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

Public comment

Barbara Cannady asked about the Taylor Grazing Committee's meeting in August, Judge Grasty stated there was no meeting in August, but one was planned for early October.

Ms. Cannady also expressed concerns about Centurylink connectivity in rural areas, stating it has become slow, and wanted the court to be aware of it. The Court will ask High Desert Air and Centurylink if they are working on improving bandwidth.

The Court discussed a very busy September which included successful back-to-back events such as Harney County Fair, Cycle Oregon, and the Oregon Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers Conference. These three events were opportunities to show case Harney County's best. Chelsea Harrison, Chamber Director, is working on scheduling a "de-briefing and lessons learned" meeting in the near future.

Commissioner Runnels and County Clerk Dag Robinson reported the logo contest is still underway; balloting was done at fair, and continues through Friday, September 20. The ballots can be dropped off at the Burns Times-Herald or the Clerk's Office.

The Court reviewed and held a lengthy discussion related to the Opinion and Order regarding the North Steens Transmission Line lawsuit. The Federal District Court sided with the County and the BLM on this, and was a huge endorsement of what the County Court and BLM have done, and was proven. Court

members don't believe the project will move now, in any case, as litigation was too costly and took too long. However, it could be a long term accomplishment as it is case law to point back to in the future. Kate Marsh, on behalf of Harney County Cultural Coalition, read aloud a letter reforming the Harney County Cultural Coalition. Ms. Marsh explained the Oregon Cultural Trust requires the local coalition to be sanctioned by the court. The Court commended the group for revitalizing the organization, and asked for annual reports and updates from the Coalition. Commissioner Runnels moved to recognize the reformation of the Harney County Cultural Coalition, Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Hancock, Library Director, was present and recommended Tom Wallis to the Library Advisory Board. Commissioner Runnels moved to Appoint Tom Wallis to the Library Advisory Board. Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously.

The court discussed a recent request for speed limits on South Egan Rd. Commissioner Runnels reported it requires a very formal process through Oregon Dept. of Transportation, the court discussed options. Commissioner Runnels would like to start the formal process. The Court also discussed an accident at the corner of the industrial buildings down Hotchkiss Ln, and inquired of the Roadmaster for some arrows showing a left direction there. Judge Grasty said in the past the court has been hesitant because rural signage often becomes vandalized unfortunately, but agrees with this one. The Court asked the Roadmaster to start the process to request a speed limit area on South Egan Rd. as a transition from a rural road into a residential area.

The Court reviewed a resolution Supporting HR 1526, Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act. Commissioner Nichols moved to adopt Resolution 2013-24, In the Matter of Supporting HR 1526 Restoring Forests for Healthy Communities Act. Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

Alicia Goodson, Drug Free Communities Coordinator, and Becky Shull, Secretary of Harney Partners for Kids and Families were present, and have been notified the Drug Free Communities Grant renewal was unsuccessful. Ms. Goodson stated the fiscal year for the grant ends September 30, 2013. She plans to volunteer to continue some of the work. There is opportunity to re-apply again next year. Commissioner Nichols asked what the priority programs are that they hope to continue, and what would be those costs. Ms. Shull stated that Harney Partners plans to continue the Youth Action Committee; the Elks plan to help with Red Ribbon week. She didn't have the costs with her but would get it to the court. She hoped for assistance to continue funding for a salary to assist in some way. Ms. Goodson believed there would be about \$1500 left from the grant. There is a 90-day window in which to close out the grant. She requested that funding be used to allow her to close out the grant. Judge Grasty suggested the County draw all allowable administrative funding remaining from the grant, and the court has the authority to re-fund something, at administrative discretion, such as hourly costs to close out the grant. Ms. Goodson will provide the Court with a list of fixed assets. The court will review and re-allocate accordingly. The Court asked to hear recommendations for those assets. Ms. Goodson requested that Harney Partners for Kids and Families get to use one of the laptops which contains the

program and associated data used to continue certain programs, and the ability to re-apply for funding. The Court agreed by consensus to allow Harney Partners for Kids and Family to continue to be the custodian of that particular computer, for continuity of programs, and access to data needed for grant applications. Ms. Goodson will back up all data and provide financial documentation to the County Clerk for archiving.

The Court discussed a draft letter to FEMA, stating in short, Harney County wishes to immediately go back to the 1978 flood map until the new work is done. The Court suggested that the Cities of Burns and Hines draft a similar letter. A lengthy discussion ensued, and by consensus, the court will send the letter stating such, agreeing with the 1978 letter, and question that science will change that map.

At 11:30 a.m., the Court opened bids for a vehicle for the Sheriff's Dept. Sgt. Needham noted one bid was inadvertently opened by the Sheriff's Office, but was immediately resealed and provided to the Court. Bids received were as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Auto Additions	2014 ¾ ton 4x4 pick up- Dodge	\$35,424.60
Auto Additions	2014 ¾ ton 4x4 pick up- Ford	\$36,485.60
Auto Additions	2014 ¾ ton 4x4 pickup- Chevy	\$37,447.60
Burns Ford, Inc.	2014 ¾ ton 4x4 pickup- Ford	\$36,829.60
Star Cars LLC	Police customization	\$7171.11

After review by the Sheriff's Dept., and under the recommendation of Sheriff Dave Glerup, the Court awarded the bid to Burns Ford, Inc., in the amount of \$36,829.60.

The Court reviewed an intergovernmental agreement with Oregon Dept. of Education in regards to funding of Youth Investment, JCP Prevention, Community Schools and Casey Partnership. A lengthy discussion ensued. Commissioner Runnels moved to authorize Judge Grasty to sign the Dept. of Education Youth Development Division 2013-2014 County Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed a proposed amendment to the Harney County zoning ordinance to address future development of Wireless Telecommunication Towers. Judge Grasty asked that a public hearing be scheduled in order to move it forward. There is agreement from the cell companies and they are in favor of this amendment to the ordinance. The Court agreed to set a public hearing date of 1:30 p.m. on October 2, 2013.

Howard Palmer, Building Codes Technician discussed the current vacancy in the position of County Building Official. He stated State Building Codes is aware of the situation and is assisting. After discussion, the court agreed to allow Judge Grasty to prepare and sign a contract with State Building Codes for Rex Taylor to serve as Building Official for Harney County for 120 days. Judge Grasty stated that the building program will unfortunately be a cost center until we have a building official on staff again. Mr. Palmer has scheduled a meeting with local contractors on October 1, at 6:00 p.m. to explain the current situation.

The Court reviewed a personal services contract and packet regarding the application process for the Early Learning Hub. A lengthy discussion ensued relating to reserve funds, insurance, and the partnerships with Grant County Court, Grant County Early Learning, and Harney ESD. Judge Grasty and Commissioner Nichols will meet with Donna Schnitker and Patty Dorroh of Harney ESD on Sept. 24th at 3:00 p.m., and will have a conference call with Grant County Judge Scott Myers, before moving forward with any contracts, and finalizing the Early Learning Hub application.

At 3:10 p.m., the Court held a short executive session, as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h), to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. The Court reconvened in regular session at 3:17 p.m., no action was taken.

Harney County Clerk, Dag Robinson, shared sample credit card policies he was asked to obtain from neighboring counties. The concept will be discussed at a future department head meeting.

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

Commissioner Runnels reported briefly on the Eastern Oregon Community Care Organization.

There being no further business, the Harney County Court adjourned at 4:00 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