



In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
December 18, 2013

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2013. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Road Master; and Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk.

Public in attendance were Samantha White, Don Munkers, Kraig Cutsforth, Tom Sharp and Ron Copeland.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2013 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Don Munkers, retiring Burns City Manager thanked the County Court for their cooperation and partnership during his tenure as City Manager, and introduced Kraig Cutsforth as his successor. Commissioner Nichols thanked Mr. Munkers as well, and appreciated all Mr. Munkers has done for our community.

Ron Copeland representing the American Legion, proposed transferring funds from the insurance payout from the crashed van. (Judge Grasty explained the background, as there was a van donated by Teague Motor Company, and an anonymous donor, to transport veterans. There was an accident and the van was a total loss. The insurance settlement funding has been kept in trust for use by the veterans, and American legion has proposed accepting the funds.) The County has received approval from Teague Motor Company and the anonymous donor, to transfer these funds to the American Legion. The Legion will have the approved proposal for next county court meeting. Judge Grasty expressed thanks to Joe Oltman for his work on this proposal as well.

Judge Grasty provided a brief update on his review of the Sage grouse EIS, and stated t we need a professional writer to help draft comments. The Judge has been given an estimate of “not to exceed \$17,500.” He has only had interest in financial help from Lake County, and hopes Malheur County will help as well. He would like to have the Eastern Oregon Counties Association hire someone, and Harney County cover this cost if need be. Commissioner Nichols believes there are certain points that must be commented on. The document is nearly overwhelming. Judge asked court for approval to appropriate funding to cover this cost upfront. He believed Rep. Bentz had some funding set aside to work on sage grouse, and he will see if there is any of that funding available as well. Commissioner Nichols stated it is far too important. The court agreed by consensus to fund hiring a consultant to draft the County’s response to the EIS.

Scott Fairley, Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions Coordinator provided an update to the court.

Tom Sharp, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator provided a brief update regarding emergency management efforts.

The Court reviewed a letter from Tom Davis Livestock requesting several County right-of-way easements be vacated. Judge Grasty suggested letting County Road Master, Eric Drushella review the records, and provide a recommendation at the next county court meeting.

The Court reviewed the Workers Compensation 2012-2013 audit. The annual audit reports Harney County will receive a credit for \$22,727.66. It will be a credit on the account for the 4th quarter invoice.

The Court reviewed a letter of resignation from Bill Burstow from the Training and employment consortium budget committee. Commissioner Runnels moved to accept the resignation, Commissioner Nichols second, motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed a letter from HDH Board regarding their request to Join the Central Oregon CCO, and disconnect from the Eastern Oregon CCO. The court is working to schedule a meeting of the interested parties for further discussion.

There being no further business, the Court adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Derrin (Dag) Robinson, CRA; CEA
Harney County Clerk

