



**In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County**  
***Minutes of the County Court***  
***December 4, 2013***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2013. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Road Master; Don Slone, Fair Manager; Angie Lamborn, Senior and Community Services Director; and Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk.

Public attending were Samantha White and Ralph Steelman.

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 November 26, 2013 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty added to the agenda the possibility of the approval of the AFSCME union contract for the 911 dispatchers.

Don Slone, Fair Manager; and Angie Lamborn, Senior and Community Services Director; announced that Betty Morgan came to them and said she wanted to disburse a gift to the two entities, on behalf of her and her late husband Mike. The gift was in the amount of \$100,000; \$50,000 to the Harney County Fair, and \$50,000 to the Senior and Community Services Center. Don and Angie expressed their gratitude, explaining that Mike and Betty Morgan have been instrumental in the fair, and worked as volunteers there for years. Mike's passion was in the rodeo; he founded the demolition derby, and started the northwest saddle bronc riding for the NPRA. He also started and sponsored the mutton busting. There has been a movement to build an indoor arena and he was always supportive of that. They are most likely the county fair's largest historical contributors, even before this donation. The fair donation has been placed in the Fair Reserve Fund. Betty said to Don that she wants to make sure Harney County always has a Fair. The Court expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Morgan for such wonderful gifts to the people of Harney County.

Ralph Steelman, President of the Burns Shooting Range Club, was present to discuss the recent request of the Sheriff's Dept. for space for firearms training at the shooting range. He said the club is open to any ideas, just wants to ensure the property remains

a shooting range as used. Road Master Eric Drushella will move ahead with groundwork at the location and will continue discussions with the BLM with regard to the site as a county rock source as well.

The Court discussed a possible land purchase adjacent to the county industrial buildings currently used by Rimrock Recycling. It is a 1.26 acre triangle shaped parcel with the only adjoining property being the industrial buildings. Judge Grasty suggested that if this occurs, the funding should come from the industrial building fund. The Judge suggested the court consider this as the value will most likely increase over time. Rimrock is hopeful of working with the beverage co-op in order to get a redemption center located at Rimrock. Commissioner Runnels moved to purchase the triangle parcel, (account 92488) with funding coming from the Industrial Building Fund, for further economic opportunities, understanding it is the policy of the county to not purchase additional private property, but this purchase would be in the best interest of the public. Judge Grasty second. A discussion ensued. Judge Grasty believes it is offered for \$5230.00, and the Assessor's real marked value is currently \$15,000. Commissioner Nichols expressed hesitation, stating the only immediate advantage is access on the west side of the industrial buildings. He said he can't see the immediate cost advantage to the county to purchase this property at this time. Judge Grasty stated he understands the concern but since the revenue was generated by the industrial property it would be an appropriate use of the fund. Commissioner Nichols stated he is extremely supportive and hopeful of the empty building being used as a redemption center but just couldn't support the purchase of the adjoining parcel at this time. Judge Grasty called for the vote, the motion carried, 2-1, Judge Grasty and Commissioner Runnels voting YEA, Commissioner Nichols voting NAY.

Judge Grasty briefly updated the Court regarding the sage grouse EIS Status. Judge Grasty stated the process really disallows people from saying, "we don't like it." They only want comments on things they want changed, or oversights on their part. Judge Grasty stated he would like court approval to hire a professional to draft comments on the court's behalf. He believes the Environmental Justice Act needs to be raised as well. The court is supportive of at least getting a general quote for services to draft comments.

The Court reviewed a list of recommended fair board members for reappointment. Judge asked the court if there was a desire for the Board to advertise for interest. Commissioner Runnels feels the group is working well together. Commissioner Runnels moved to reappoint Dawn Crafts, Loretta Zelly, and Karen Moon to an additional term on the fair board, beginning 1-1-14 ending 12-31-16. Commissioner Nichols second, the motion carried unanimously.

The court reviewed a draft Ordinance authorizing the county to enter in to an intergovernmental agreement under ORS 190, creating an association to promote, foster and advance community based renewable energy, to be known as Community Renewable Energy Association. No action was taken at this time.

Christy Cheyne, Emigrant District Ranger, Malheur National Forest, was present and provided an update relating to projects on the district, including the Wolf Project and the NEPA for the Central Malheur Grazing. Judge Grasty expressed frustration that lay citizens aren't able to comment, even though they attend a meeting during the comment

periods, and that if their comments aren't "substantive" they aren't taken into consideration. She also discussed Title II authorization. Judge Grasty provided an explanation of the upcoming funding reauthorization. Judge recommended we put 15% of the funding into Title 2. The Court prefers at least one OYCC crew works each summer, and that none of the projects are fencing, or toilets, but all focus on forest health. Ranger Cheyne and the Court will prioritize a list of possible projects.

The Court reviewed a draft intergovernmental agreement with Baker, Grant, Union, Wallowa, and Malheur Counties, for the Eastern Oregon Counties Association, with the purpose to collectively take on Federal issues, similarly to how the O & C Counties operate on the west side. Commissioner Nichols moved to sign the agreement. Commissioner Runnels second, the motion carried unanimously.

Court discussed the AOC conference, and different seminars each member attended.

The Court reviewed a PowerPoint presentation provided by PERS Executive Director, Paul Cleary.

Judge Grasty commended the County Employees and the Safety Committee, as Harney County received the Gold Safety Award from CIS for no loss time for Workers Compensation.

Court reviewed Misc. correspondence and water use requests. There were no objections to any requests.

The Court took a brief recess to review the draft union contract for the 911 dispatchers. After reconvening, Commissioner Nichols moved to sign the contract with the AFSCME 911 dispatchers union. Commissioner Runnels second, and motion carried unanimously. The court noted several typographical clerical errors in the document, not pertinent to content however. The Court will request a new clean copy of the document from LGPI counsel before signature.

There being no further business, the County Court adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derrin Robinson".

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