



In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
August 6, 2014

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday August 6, 2014. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also attending were Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk; and Eric Drushella, Roadmaster.

Others in attendance included Samantha White, Herb Vloedman, Barbara Cannady, Denny Thomas, Brandon Baron, Karen Moon, Barbara Kull and Susan Bush.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2014 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Vouchers and accounts payable were reviewed and approved by Court Signatures.

Public Comment:

Herb Vloedman commented that he's concerned about the economy here.

Barbara Cannady stated she had been notified by CenturyLink they are discontinuing dial up internet so she would have to find an alternate internet service provider, likely satellite, which is much more expensive. The Court asked for the information so they could inquire and assist.

Denny Thomas asked what the courts' priority was regarding grazing and fire control. Commissioner Nichols said they started Oregon Consensus two years ago. They came up with bio thinning and have done a management analysis. He explained BLM staff in this district is responsive to these issues because the local personnel do try. Brandon Baron expressed deep frustration and stated he would like the community to rally, "throw open the gates and if it comes to a stand-off they will listen." The court advised against that technique. Judge Grasty stated if it comes to violence or a stand-off, the court will not support it. A lengthy discussion ensued. Brandon Baron wants to pursue a local grazing board. Judge Grasty asked for a mission statement and list of standards

or what their intent is. If it is diplomatic, the Court may be supportive in helping if it is in a collaborative way.

In the Matter of the continuation of the Road Map Hearing, Judge recognized additional written comments from Allen and Stephanie Farnsworth and Barbara Cannady (both will be included with the minutes). The Court agreed to continue the hearing up until October 15, and make a decision date on November 5. Judge Grasty would like for the court to have a general discussion, reviewing testimony received to that point in the afternoon at the next county court meeting.

Karen Moon, representing the 4-H livestock committee, requested funding of the cost of permits for completion of the grandstands in the 4-H livestock show arena. Commissioner Nichols moved the County Court cover the costs of permits since it is a county owned facility. Commissioner Runnels seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The County Court recognized a resolution of the Senior Center Board of Directors, donating the building addition to Harney County (*CJ2014-85*).

The Court reviewed Resolution 2014-09, in the Matter of Requesting an Emergency Declaration for Harney County. The Declaration was necessary in light of the situation with the Buzzard Fire. Therefore, Judge Grasty completed the Declaration with the assistance of County Counsel Joseph Lucas on July 17, 2014. Commissioner Runnels moved to ratify Resolution 2014-09, Commissioner Nichols seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty stated the County also donated 500 gallons of fuel to the rural fire protection association during the Buzzard Complex Fires (*CJ-2014-83*).

The Court discussed the Community in Action Board. Commissioner Runnels agreed to pursue membership on that Board, since he is currently the County's representative on the Housing Board of Malheur County.

The Court reviewed the documentation for the Hwy. 20/Hwy. 395 Burns traffic signal improvements scheduled for summer, 2015.

The Court reviewed Resolution 2014-14, In the Matter of the Blue Mountains National Forests Proposed Revised Land Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Judge Grasty stated nothing in the plan benefits Harney County. Judge Grasty explained, in essence, this resolution says "you have worked on this for 10 years, throw it away, and start over." He believes most of the Eastern Oregon Counties will be signing similar Resolutions. Commissioner Nichols moved to adopt Resolution 2014-14. Commissioner Runnels seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (*CJ 2014-82*).

The Court reviewed notices of water use requests. There were no objections to any requests.

The Court reviewed an Order of Sale of County Properties in Harney County. Commissioner Runnels moved to sign the Order of Sale of County properties, Commissioner Nichols seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor; reported on chip seal projects.

The Court discussed Oregon Dept. of Forestry fire patrol costs. They will send a letter of inquiry regarding the increase in fire patrol costs.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Court will need to reschedule the next court session to **Thursday, August 21st at 11:00 a.m.**

The Court recessed until 1:00 p.m.

Derrin Robinson, County Clerk, noted for the record there were technical issues with the audio recording for the morning session and it was not recorded. The issues were rectified but only the afternoon session was recorded.

Kathleen Johnson, Executive Director, Coalition of Local Health Officials provided a presentation to the court about what that organization does including Accreditation readiness. Harney County Public Health Department is working towards National Accreditation.

There being no further business, the Court Adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derrin Robinson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Derrin (Dag) Robinson, C.R.A; C.E.A
Harney County Clerk & Recorder