



**In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County**  
***Minutes of the County Court***  
***May 7, 2014***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday May 7, 2014. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending all or portion of the session were Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk; Eric Drushella, Road Master; Nellie Franklin, County Treasurer; LaDene Hurd, Human Resource Administrator; Deanna Atwell, Financial Assistant; Tom Sharp, Emergency Management Coordinator; Ron Copeland, Emergency Management Assistant; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director and Ted Tiller, County Assessor.

Others in attendance included Samantha White, Gretchen Jones, Travis Williams and Barbara Cannady.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

LaDene Hurd, Human Resource/ Finance Administrator introduced Deanna Atwell, Finance Specialist. This is a new position that will assist with Payroll, Accounts Payable, Fixed Assets, and other finance matters for the County.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2014 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Vouchers were reviewed and approved by Court Signatures.

**Public Comment:**

Gretchen Jones, volunteer with Save-a-Stray, was present and requested donation of a foreclosed property for use by the non-profit organization for dealing with and processing the feral cat colonies, working towards prevention of such colonies locally. Commissioner Runnels will be the liaison with Save-a-Stray, and work towards this goal. The intent is an aggressive way to try to get a stop to reproduction.

## Old Business:

Judge Grasty and Brandon McMullen provided an update on the Sage Grouse issue. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the BLM management plan, USFW discussion of listing, and the Sage Con, which is the State response to the Plan. Mr. McMullen discussed their "framework Model". The frame work allows for a cap of 3% of human caused disturbance in the polygons (these are what the proposed habitat areas are referred to). Commissioner Nichols made a recommendation the Counties collectively take a stand, and take no further action regarding any regulation with land use. The other court members concurred with the concept. They will draft a resolution to for the Association of Oregon Counties.

Court discussed the continued road inventory documentation, once again to document that a road exists, and has existed. Drewsey resident, Travis Williams has worked with local agricultural producers to document what roads they have historically used, and currently use for economic operation, to ensure they remain established as necessary.

Judge Grasty addressed several issues mentioned in the Audit Management Letter from Oster Professional Group dated March 28, 2014. Judge Grasty stated that he met with the county management team including County Assessor, Ted Tiller; County Clerk, Derrin Robinson and County Treasurer, Nellie Franklin. The group reviewed mentioned items including *Internal Control*, *Budget Process Documentation*, and *Rock Pit Inventory*. Judge Grasty reiterated there were NO findings listed in the Audit. The Management letter simply suggests administrative changes in several business processes. Judge Grasty explained and reminded this Audit was for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. During and since that time, the County's financial software, along with the Clerk, Assessment, and Tax Collection software have all been updated and are entirely different systems. So most of the business processes changed with the software and the suggestions have been incorporated. In regards to budget process documentation, it was determined that there was a simple lack of communication regarding documentation, as what was suggested was in fact in place. Judge Grasty reiterated again, there were NO findings, simply administrative issues, and has included the discussions from the meeting in the response to the management letter (CJ-2014-36).

Tom Sharp, Emergency Management Coordinator provided an update of activities including grant funding for Rangeland fire protection association equipment, and the Generator Update project for the Health Department.

Lisa Moody and other representatives Treasure Valley Community College were present to discuss the Out-of-District Contract with Treasure Valley Community College. And provided billing for Out-of-District Services. The Contract will be on the agenda at the next court meeting.

The court reviewed Resolution 2013-12 and wished to amend it. In the approved resolution, it was assumed previously that home health volunteers would be paid \$800 per month, so the worker compensation insurance rate was based on that amount.

Under the amended resolution, the rate will be computed at an hourly rate. It was not accurate, and to the credit to agent of record, she found that this needs to be addressed to save on insurance premium. Commissioner Runnels moved to adopt Resolution 2013-12 as amended. Commissioner Nichols seconded, the motion carried unanimously (CJ 2014-34).

The Court discussed an Oregon Dept. of Transportation application regarding siting of additional antennas on the site at Burns butte.

The Court had a brief discussion regarding the concept of a county transient room tax (TRT). Currently the Cities of Burns and Hines collect a TRT. Judge Grasty suggested appointing a committee to look at how it would work. He stated the discussion came about at a recent Hines Common Council meeting. Commissioner Nichols expressed his opposition to the concept. County Clerk Derrin Robinson stated that he had mentioned it at that council meeting as a possible solution to funding for the Chamber of Commerce. A general discussion ensued. There were no representatives of the Chamber of Commerce present, and the discussion was simply regarding concept. Commissioner Runnels suggested that neighboring counties be contacted to see if they have implemented a county wide TRT, and what the details were, before considering putting together a committee. Judge Grasty agreed to check with adjoining counties and see who collects it.

The Court Reviewed an Intergovernmental Agreement between Harney County and Grant County for Grant County to assume (continue) responsibility for Oregon Health Division licensing, inspection and enforcement programs. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner Runnels seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed the Regional Solutions economic development projects which need to be submitted to the legislature.

Court reviewed letters of interest to be appointed to the Harney County Park Advisory Committee. Judge Grasty moved to Appoint Junior Hurd, Jon Reponen, Bill Wilber, Brendan Cain, and Judge Steve Grasty to the Harney County Park Committee. Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed a letter from Oregon Natural Desert Association to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell along with a draft rebuttal letter from the County Court to Secretary Jewell.

The Court reviewed Notices of Water Use requests and there were no objections to any request.

The Court briefly discussed the close-out of the Commission on Children and Families, and the transition to the Early Learning Hub system.

Travis Williams, 4-H / FFA Livestock Committee, is preparing to re-construct the new bleachers in the 4-H area at the fairgrounds and asked for funding assistance for permit fees. The permit fees are more than the cost of the concrete. Judge Grasty will discuss the permit fees with the building Dept., and stated that it is a county owned public facility, and will see what can be done.

There being no further business, the Harney County Court adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derrin Robinson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted,".

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