



In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
March 19, 2014

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday March 19, 2014. 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.

Others in attendance included Randy Fulton, Heidi Stark, Jenni Stevens, Barbara Cannady, Lori Bailey, Don Slone, and Ron Copeland.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2014 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Judge Grasty noted several changes to the agenda- Item #7 was canceled, and discussion regarding Early Learning Hub and appointment of Assistant Watermaster were added.

Don Slone asked if there was a status update in the matter of speed control on Egan Road. Eric Drushella, Road Master; reported that ODOT sets it and it is under review.

Lori Bailey, Malheur National Forest, was present to discuss the Wolf Project and associated road closures. Judge asked for a list of grazing permit holders. Lori explained they have been in contact with them and there are concessions being made that they can use it for their permit administration. A map is available for review at the Emigrant Creek Ranger District Office, or the County Clerk's Office.

Judge provided a brief Sage Grouse update. He noted there were nearly 28,000 comments on the Draft EIS. He stated the Cooperating Agencies will meet with the Core

team on March 26. He is meeting with the Team Leader, the socio-economic staffer for the team, and the State Economist the day before to go over the socioeconomic framework.

Judge Grasty stated the Blue Mountain Forest Plan meeting was last night, and judge left pessimistic. He is asking the Governor for some staff help to deal with some of this as he and the commissioners all feel the federal agencies are burying local officials with these Draft Plans that are thousands of pages.

New Business:

Randy Fulton, Economic Development Officer, was present to discuss the rededication of the Harney County Enterprise Zone. They expire after 10 years, if not used. An enterprise zone allows for 3 to 7 years of property tax abatement for new buildings and new equipment. He explained there will be a public hearing on the rededication March 31 at 6:00 p.m. The governing bodies of the City of Burns, City of Hines, and Harney County will all need to approve it by resolution. Mr. Fulton stated this allows for something to offer a business to relocate to the area and is very optimistic of one in particular.

The Court discussed the reduction of hours at the local field office of the Oregon Employment Dept. Judge will meet with State Director next week.

At 11:00 court opened bids for Asphalt Oil, for chip seal and overlay projects. Bids received were as follows:

Western States Asphalt, Inc.	CRS-2P, 750 Tons CMS-2S, 450 Tons	549.00/ton fob Burns, OR 585.00/ton fob Burns, OR
Idaho Asphalt Supply, Inc.	CRS-2P, 750 Tons CMS-2S, 450 Tons	501.90/ton fob Burns, OR 561.90/ton fob Burns, OR

Road Master Eric Drushella recommended awarding the bid to Idaho Asphalt, Inc. Commissioner Runnels moved to award the bid to Idaho Asphalt, Inc., Commissioner Nichols seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed a certified letter from Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding an application for acquisition of off-reservation land. The Court will discuss the matter with Counsel.

Commissioner Nichols announced that Jane Jones is recommended by the interview committee to fill the Assistant Watermaster position. Commissioner Nichols moved the court hire Jane Jones as Assistant Watermaster. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Judge explained it is a part-time position, full-time during irrigation season only. The motion carries unanimously.

The Court discussed briefly the archive center, noting that in the near future the County may possibly become the owner. Judge Grasty hopes to find tenants, even if at no cost, for job creation.

Commissioner Nichols provided an update on the status of the Early Learning Hub.

Commissioner Runnels provided an update on the Eastern Oregon Community Care Organization. Commissioner Runnels said this is requiring more and more time to manage as well. The required time commitment is becoming overwhelming and the need for a staff person for that organization is becoming apparent. Currently, as a courtesy, the County Clerk's staff takes minutes for the meetings but more staff time is becoming necessary. They are looking for solutions and funding.

Court reviewed a letter from Sam Kaser regarding 4B recycling. Judge Grasty stated the matter is out of the County Court's realm but was recognized for the record. Commissioner Nichols suggested an acknowledgment letter be sent to Mr. Kaser.

The court reviewed a press release from Congressman Greg Walden regarding legislation he has introduced to stop the forest travel management rule and promote forest access for all.

The Court recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

The Court reconvened at 1:15 p.m. and had a conference call with Ron Yockim, County Counsel for Natural Resources, regarding the general process of transferring tribal land in trust.

There being no further business, The Court adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

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