



In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
November 25, 2014

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday November 25, 2014. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also attending were Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk; Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director.

Others in attendance included Mary Ausmus, Barbara Cannady, Barb Kull, Ann Haak, and Wayne Baron.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Vouchers were reviewed and approved by Court Signatures.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barb Kull asked questions regarding a surveyor who has been seen in the area. Judge Grasty said these are flights performed by FEMA to measure elevation in the flood plain areas. Barb also asked about the process to replace the Harney County Sheriff, who is retiring as of January 1, 2015. Judge Grasty and County Clerk, Derrin Robinson, explained the County Court will interview candidates and appoint a Sheriff to fill the vacancy, and then a new Sheriff will be elected in the next general election in 2016. Barb also asked about mineral rights research being done in the County. Derrin Robinson explained the BLM is compiling a database of Harney County mineral rights records.

Barbara Cannady says people called into 911 regarding low flying planes. Judge Grasty said the planes doing aerial surveying do not normally fly low but he will investigate this issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Sage Grouse

Sage Grouse was discussed at the AOC Conference. Discussion has progressed but no decisions have been made. It appears there will be limited development allowed in the core areas.

County Road Inventory Map

Dag Robinson, Harney County Clerk, gave a demonstration of the Laserfiche software program that has search capabilities to track all documents related to the road inventory map. Planning/GIS, Accounts Payable, County Clerk, and County Judge offices are currently implementing Laserfiche.

Acceptance of Warranty Deed from George Glerup

A motion was made by Commissioner Runnels to accept the land donation from GEO Investments, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Nichols, motion carried unanimously. The deed was signed by the Court and given to the County Clerk for recording.

NEW BUSINESS

Wayne Baron with a request to rent a County building

After further investigation, the Court determined a competitive rental rate of \$1850 per month, plus taxes and utilities for rent. Mr. Baron left the meeting and no action was taken.

Review of old documents approved by the Court for ADA and Grievance policies; possible action

It was discovered by the Court on May 7, 2003, Harney County Policies Public Grievance Procedure was accepted but never signed by the Court. Judge Grasty will sign the document as adopted previously but signed November 25, 2014. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to accept the procedure and sign as of today, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, motion carried unanimously.

Update from County Counsel regarding Measure 91

Tim Colahan, District Attorney/County Counsel, discussed Measure 91. He provided the Court with two informational documents which included League of Oregon Cities Measure 91: What it Means for Local Governments, November 2014, and Association of Oregon Counties draft Summary of Measure 91. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the impact of Measure 91 on Harney County and the cities of Burns and Hines. Tim Colahan will continue to keep the Court apprised of any new developments.

Review of an Intergovernmental Agreement creating the Eastern Oregon Jobs Council

The Court discussed the formation of a regional workforce investment board with 8 Oregon Counties (Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa) and the Intergovernmental Agreement to create the EOJC. The board will consist of about 20 members with a minimum of 2 members per county. The Court reviewed Ordinance #2014-74 in the Matter of Adoption of an Ordinance Ratifying the Creation of an Intergovernmental Entity known as the Eastern Oregon Jobs Council (EOJC). Commissioner Runnels made a motion to read by title only and sign Ordinance #2014-74, seconded by Judge Grasty, no further discussion, and motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Judge Grasty to read by title only and adopt Ordinance #2014-74, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, no further discussion, and motion carried unanimously. Court will need to make recommendations at a later date for members to this board. Judge Grasty will ask Sharon Johnson to publicize board member vacancies.

CIS Silver Award

Harney County received the CIS Silver Award for the reduction in worker's compensation claims during fiscal year 2013-2014.

Discussion of AOC Conference

The Court discussed the AOC Conference.

Review of Water Use Requests

CORRESPONDENCE TO REVIEW

LATE ITEMS

The Court discussed the applications received for the Harney County Sheriff position. Applicants are Stacey Johnson, David Ward, Brian Needham, and Kerry Boggs. The County Commissioners received copies of the applications. Interviews will be scheduled in the afternoon on December 3, 2014, and the Court will establish standard interview questions.

SCHEDULING

Next County Court meeting will be December 3, 2014, at 10 am.

GENERAL DELIBERATION BY THE COURT (no decisions will be made)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk