



**In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
November 5, 2014**

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday November 5, 2014. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also attending were Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; Eric Drushella, Road Master; David Glerup, Harney County Sheriff; Nellie Franklin, County Treasurer; Derrin Robinson, County Clerk.

Others in attendance included Samantha White, Mary Ausmus, Joyce Green, Mike Kennedy, Wayne Baron, Tom Sharp, Cathy Stauffer, and Chris Siegner.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2014, meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Voucher Approval

Public Comment

None

New Business

Judge Grasty and Commissioner Runnels advised the Court of conflicts of interest regarding the WIC Coordinator interview process. Donna Schnitker will take over the interview process.

Sheriff David Glerup presented to the Court his letter of resignation. His retirement date is January 1, 2015. Motion made by Commissioner Runnels to accept Sheriff Glerup's resignation effective January 1, 2015, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Derrin Robinson, Harney County Clerk, gave an update on the November 2014 Election. Voter turnout was 75% and Harney County voted "no" on all the measures. There are 6 outstanding ballots, which include ballots in other counties, unsigned ballots, and signature "no match" ballots; and 20 days to certify the election.

The Court reviewed an application for an approach by James Gilmour for an approach off of Lava Bed Road. Road Master, Eric Drushella, discussed how the initial approach was made on a neighbor's property. He is in support of the new approach on Mr. Gilmour's property. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the Application by James Gilmour, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Court discussed the Harney County Road Department Application by Stacy Davies for boring underneath the asphalt on Canyon Road in Hines. After some discussion, Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the Application by Stacey Davies, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Chris Siegner, Symmetry Care Director, and Cathy Stauffer, Symmetry Care staff, provided an update regarding mental health services in Harney County. They reviewed the Quality Assurance and Performance Standards for 2013-2015, New Program Development, and Statement of Ideals. Judge Grasty suggested a meeting be scheduled with County Court and the Mental Health Advisory Committee. Chris Siegner also discussed the CCO with the Court. Judge Grasty will also be meeting with Stacie Rothwell, and Jim Bishop to discuss CCO issues. There will be a CCO summit December 2014 in Portland, Oregon.

Review of the Detail of Taxing District Levies for Tax Year 2014-2015.

Signing of a Warranty Deed for property donated to Harney County by Geo Investments, Inc. A Motion to sign and accept the donation was made by Commissioner Nichols, Commissioner Runnels seconded, no further discussion and motion carried unanimously. The County will pay any filing fees for the deed. A clerical error was discovered in the deed, corrections will be made by County Counsel, and the deed will be recorded with the Clerk's Office. Discussion to follow regarding use of this property.

Chelsea Harrison, Harney County Chamber of Commerce Director, discussed this years' Oregon State Fair booth. She was disappointed there were only 7 Oregon counties with booths at the Oregon State Fair, most of them unmanned. Judge Grasty received support from the Court to bring this up at the AOC Conference and issue a "fair booth challenge" to other counties. The Court felt a need to encourage counties to man their booths and participate in the Oregon State Fair. Chelsea also discussed the "Seven Wonders of Harney County," which include the Steens Mountains, Alvord Desert, Diamond Craters, hot springs, star gazing, Malheur National Forest, and Malheur Wildlife Refuge.

Informational briefing and update on the transition activities related to the formation of the Eastern Workforce Area provided by Mike Kennedy, a member of the Oregon Technical Assistance Team. Technical advisor and support to the Eastern Oregon Workforce Area Consortium (Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Union, Umatilla, and Wallowa counties). Mike Kennedy reviewed the current status of the workforce area, the next steps for the Consortium, and service delivery. He also provided a summary of the 10/9/2014 Eastern Oregon Workforce Area meeting and information on reasons to incorporate a Local Workforce Board (LWB). He will also e-mail a document to Sharon, County Court Administrative Assistant, which he wrote to help communicate the importance of becoming a LWB member.

The Court reconvened at 1:00 pm. Emergency Management Coordinator, Tom Sharp, discussed the Harney County Emergency Management guidelines for Ebola Virus Disease and information "Is it Flu or Ebola"? He also gave an update on the HC Emergency Management FY13 and FY14 grants, and reviewed trainings completed October 18, October 25-26, and November 1, 2014.

The Court reconvened at 1:30 pm. for the Supplemental Budget Hearing. Judge Grasty reviewed the Approved Budget Report with the breakdown of the ELC Hub/State Sources. There was no public comment. Motion to accept the budget as prepared as the Adopted Budget was made by Judge Grasty, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty will direct the County Treasurer to input the revised budget.

The Court reviewed Resolution #2014-17 in the Matter of an Unexpected Occurrence in the Weed Department Fund. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve Resolution #2014-17, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed Water Use Requests.

Old Business

Update on Sage Grouse; No new information at this time.

Acceptance of the Harney County Road Inventory Map was tabled until the next County Court meeting.

Beatys Butte Update. Commissioner Runnels relayed the information discussed at the last County Court meeting to the Beatys Butte Working Group. The map presented at the original meeting is not the final draft and is expected to change. Commissioner Runnels also brought up the issues of notification and public comment for private landowners, and the changes in the focus of the group. These comments were not accepted favorably by the Beatys Butte Working Group. There are no further meeting scheduled at this time.

Correspondence to Review

Wayne Baron requested to rent Industrial Building #1 on Hotchkiss Lane for \$500 per month. Because the use of this building is not expansion or job creation, Judge Grasty believed rent should be at market rate and did not recommend accepting rent of \$500/month. Wayne Baron reports there will be no recycling done in this building, just equipment repair and manufacturing, and was needed on a temporary basis. Commissioner Nichols requested a business plan and revenue plans. Mr. Baron was hesitant to give the Court this information but agreed to do so if the rent is approved. The Court will discuss further and make a decision at next County Court meeting.

Forest Service – notice of bid opening.

Forest Service – notice of timber sales to be offered between October 1, 2014, and September 30, 2015.

Late Items

None

Scheduling

Next County Court meeting will be on Tuesday, November 25, 10 am due to the AOC Legislative Conference being the week of November 17-21, 2014.

General Deliberation by the Court (no decisions will be made)

Adjournment There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk