



In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
October 1, 2014

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday October 1, 2014. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also in attendance were Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk and Eric Drushella, Harney County Roadmaster.

Others in attendance included Samantha White, Burns Times Herald; Barbara Cannady; Chelsea Harrison, Harney County Chamber of Commerce.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2014, meeting, Judge Steven E. Grasty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Vouchers were reviewed and approved by Court Signatures.

Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

Road Inventory Map: Barbara Cannaday requested a copy of the legal opinion on the Road Map. Judge Grasty stated that we have not asked for one, we do not have one. The Court will make the decision at the final hearing date regarding the Road Map inventory and there will be no need for a written legal opinion.

New Business:

Judge Grasty discussed the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) decision dated September 30, 2014. Judge Grasty called this a "Home Run," and reported it "completely reversed all the earlier decisions and said ONDA did not make a case." Judge Grasty requested this document be entered in as input into the Road Map hearing, as it "legitimizes all the effort we did." A copy of the decision will be forwarded to Samantha White at the Burns Times Herald for a possible news story.

The Court reviewed the letter from George Glerup, Geo Investments, LLC, regarding the donation of a piece of property. The Court, at the recommendation of Court Counsel, will have a title search completed before moving further on this matter. This property does not have any buildings, just some weeds that could be cleaned up by a community service crew. The Court postponed a decision until after the completion of the title search. A decision will be made at the next County Court meeting.

Judge Grasty presented a letter to the Court for consideration, restating the Harney County Employee Vacation policy. There are some employees that have accrued vacation time outside of the current policy and will need to use their hours before January 1, 2015. After a review of the letter and some discussion, the letter was approved and will be distributed to all Harney County employees.

Regarding Resolution #2014-12, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to table the resolution until the next County Court meeting.

The Court reviewed the resolutions naming roads inside the Burns Municipal Airport. Regarding Resolution #2014-15 Road Naming Heliport Way, Commissioner Nichols made a motion, Commissioner Runnels seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Regarding Resolution #2014-16 Road Naming Business Way, Judge Grasty made a motion, Commissioner Nichols seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Regarding Resolution #2014-17 Road Naming Terminal Way, Commissioner Runnels made a motion, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously. The Court requested copies of the signed Resolutions #2014-15, #2014-16, and #2014-17 be forwarded to Bryce Mertz, Harney County Planning Department.

Eric Druschella discussed speed zone investigation request ID 7274. The Harney County Road Department concurred with the recommendation by Kathie McConnell, ODOT Traffic-Roadway Section, proposing 35 mph on S. Egan Road from Grant Street to 0.32 miles south of Culp Lane. A copy of the Speed Zone Order will be placed in the County Court Minutes and the original returned to Eric Druschella.

The Court set a date for a Supplemental Budget hearing for **Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 1:30 p.m.** The Court will advertise this hearing in the Burns Times Herald and will invite Budget Committee members but it is not mandatory they attend.

The 2nd County Court meeting for November will be **Tuesday, November 25, 2014.**

The Court addressed the Harney County Fair Board appointments. There was one resignation and one removal from the board for lack of attendance by the Fair Board in accordance with State of Oregon by-laws. Two board member appointments are currently open. Harney County Court appoints the board members and the fair board makes decisions regarding duties on the board. After some discussion regarding the candidates, Commissioner Nichols made a motion for Vern Brown, Pete Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously. Judge Steven Grasty made a motion for Jerry

Staley, Dan Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously. The Court thought it was important for the current Fair Board to encourage those still interested, but not chosen, to attend the next fair board meeting.

The Court discussed one of the Industrial Buildings. There are two interested parties who would be providing new jobs in the community. The Court will request proposals from those interested to be reviewed before the next Court meeting.

Judge Grasty provided the Court with an update on the Harney County Health Department.

Harney County Court reviewed water use requests.

Correspondence to Review:

Judge Grasty reviewed the United States Department of the Interior letter; BLM renewal of nine 10-year grazing permits. The Court will look into whether these permits are even in Harney County, if not, the Court will not need to be involved.

Late Items:

Judge Grasty discussed the meeting he attended on September 30, 2014, on the DSL/Tree Top Ranch land trade. He reported there was a good turnout.

Commissioner Nichols discussed the conference he attended in Washington D.C. related to Payments in Lieu of Taxes.

Scheduling:

Next meeting October 15, 2014.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the Court adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Harney County Deputy Clerk