



*In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court Session
And
Budget Board Meeting
April 15-16, 2015*

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster and Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk.

Others in attendance included Mary Ausmus, Charlie Ewing, VISTA Volunteer and Samantha White, Burns Times Herald.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2015, seconded by Judge Grasty, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Judge Grasty explained on record the court was in session earlier in the morning for an executive session, which would continue later in the afternoon and the following day.

Mary Ausmus asked about the Biomass Co-op, and had heard it referred to as a district. She was concerned with that term, as it refers to a taxing district, and asked for clarification. She also asked about the job description for the project manager. The Court explained it is a Co-op for and not a taxing district. The project manager simply allows for oversight of the project, and will be a contracted temporary position. Judge Grasty provided some clarification on the Biomass Co-op project.

Charlie Ewing, VISTA Volunteer thanked the court for their cooperation while he served as VISTA volunteer for the Health Department. The Court expressed their gratitude as well, for his accomplishments here.

Judge Grasty provided an update on the Sage Grouse matter.

The Court reviewed an Order of Sale of County Owned Land. Commissioner Nichols moved to sign the order for sale of parcels identified as Assessors Account numbers 23559, 42587 and 59089. Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Runnels shared a personal services contract with Evelyn Neasham for clerical assistance with the Local Community Advisory Council, (relating to EOCCO). Judge Grasty moved to authorize Commissioner Runnels to sign the contract on behalf of the County. Nichols second, motion carried unanimously.

The Court acknowledged the Governor's Executive Order No. 15-03, determining a State of Drought Emergency in Harney County.

The Court reviewed notices of water use requests. The court expressed concerns regarding recent denials, and the appearance of a "moratorium" on use in the county. The Commissioners expressed a desire to meet with water resources, the watershed council, and discuss these and other issues.

Candace Johnson was present to discuss with the court their recent denial of an application for purchase of county land. She explained what her intent of use was to work with people with disabilities and share a cattle drive with them. the court found her intent was admirable, and suggested she try working with neighboring ranchers to accomplish the same actual goal and explained this parcel is one the court simply felt there were enough implications with location, and possible rock sources, that it was in the public's best interest to leave as publicly owned.

Court reviewed correspondence as listed in the Agenda.

Today's County Court meeting will continue tomorrow after noon at 3:30

The court recessed at 11:10 to review the Zoning Ordinance. The Court reconvened at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of a public hearing in the matter of the request of Nick Schott for a Floodplain Development Variance to construct a an aircraft hangar at the Burns Municipal Airport. Mr. Schott explained his request, as a crop duster, wishes to develop his business at the Burns Municipal Airport. Comments in favor were heard from Mr. & Mrs. James Gogin, Jeff Cotton, Airport Manager and Keaton Molt. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the variance for Nick Schott, Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously

The Court recessed at 12:00 p.m., explaining the regular session would re-convene at 3:30 p.m. to meet with Lori Cheek representing School District # 3, to discuss further the Biomass Co-op project.

Budget Board Meeting

The Harney County Budget Committee Convened at 1:20, p.m., to review the 2015-2016 Budget. Attending were Judge Grasty, Commissioner Nichols, Commissioner Runnels, Holly Smith, Terri Hellbusch and Curt Blackburn. Judge Grasty moved to appoint Holly Smith as Chairperson. Terri Hellbusch seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty provided his proposed budget and gave the Budget Message for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. A copy of the Budget Message is attached.

County Assessor/Tax Collector, Ted Tiller; County Clerk, Derrin (Dag) Robinson; County Treasurer, Nellie Franklin and HR / Finance Administrator, LaDene Hurd each reviewed their department proposed budgets; (Fund 101-002, 003, 004, 020 and 027) . Judge Grasty moved to tentatively approve these appropriations as presented. Terri Hellbusch seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Budget Committee continued with review of the proposed budgets for the following funds and departments:

221- Senior and Community Services Transportation

101-035- Senior and Community Service Center

101-011- Veterans Service Officer

Curt Blackburn moved to recognize review of the above funds and departments. Terri Hellbusch seconded, motion carried unanimously.

101-005- District Attorney

216- CAMI

226- Victims / Witness

249- VOCA

238- Forfeitures

Judge Grasty moved to recognize review of the above funds. Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

101-04 Planning Department

101-04 GIS Department

213-Building Program

Curt Blackburn moved to recognize review of the above funds. Terri Hellbusch seconded, motion carried unanimously.

202- Road Department

Judge Grasty move to recognize review of the Road Department Fund, Holly Smith seconded, motion carried unanimously.

203- Law Library

204- Liquor Control

205- Taylor Grazing

206- Corner Preservation

Commissioner Nichols move to recognize review of the above funds. Terri Hellbusch seconded, motion carried unanimously.

208- Diamond Disposal

209- Drewsey Disposal

210- Fields Disposal

211- Frenchglen Disposal

212- Riley Disposal

Commissioner Runnels moved to recognize review of the above funds. Terri Hellbusch seconded, motion carried unanimously.

215- Industrial Building / Economic Development

Commissioner Nichols moved to recognize review of the above fund. Curt Blackburn seconded, motion carried unanimously.

217- PERS Reserve

Judge Grasty explained Fund 217- PERS Reserve was transferred to the General Operating Reserve fund, and closed out at the last county court meeting.

218-Clerk's Records Fund

Curt Blackburn moved to recognize review of the above fund. Terri Hellbusch seconded, motion carried unanimously.

219-Nuisance Abatement

Judge Grasty moved to recognize review of the above fund. Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

The Budget Board adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next Budget Committee meeting will be April 22, 2015.

The County Court reconvened at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the Biomass Cooperative project. With Lori Cheek, Board Member, District #3. They discussed the project, project manager position, and financing.

By consensus the court agreed the project manager will be an employee under Randy Fulton, of Fulton Business services, as contractor for Harney County Economic Development. The physical office will be located at Harney County School district 3. Mrs. Cheek explained this position will simply be the project manager to oversee the project until in operation.

Mrs. Cheek explained the two entities (Harney County and Harney County School District #3) will form the Co-op on Tuesday April 21.

On April 22nd the County Court will hold a special meeting at 9:30 am, to approve available funding for the Cooperative. The agreement is the commitment from the county and the school to buy the heat from HCE. Court will send it to County Counsel for review and discussion on the 22nd.

There being no further business, the Court adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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