

***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County  
Minutes of the County Court  
April 1, 2015***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director and Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk.

Others in attendance Barbara Cannady, Lori Cheek, School Dist. #3; Christy Cheyne, Ranger, Emigrant Creek Ranger District; Steve Beverlin, Supervisor, Malheur National Forrest; Theresa Ghaliger, Public Information Officer, Malheur Forrest; 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 March 19, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty noted the Executive Session scheduled for later in the afternoon would be rescheduled for Tuesday April 14, at 2:00 p.m.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no comments.

**Voucher Approval**

Accounts Payable were approved by Court signature.

**Old Business**

Update on Sage Grouse:

Judge Grasty stated Administrative Rule writing committees met here in Burns for two days on March 19 and 20. He provided a briefing of those meetings.

He met last week with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and Governor Brown about the value of the CCA's and reminded them these were local ideas, and a success story.

County Planners met yesterday, Brandon McMullen explained their discussions.

### **New Business**

Application of Candace A. Carpenter to Purchase County Owned Land (Acct # 93212):

Judge Grasty explained concerns about location and relationship to low density sage grouse habitat and other land use implications, and recommended the court not consider a sale of this parcel at this time. The court discussed the possibility of a discussion with BLM to trade parcels because of its location near the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range. Commissioner Nichols moved to deny the application for public auction of assessors account number 93212, and refund the application fee. Commissioner Runnels second. The motion carried unanimously.

Application of Davis Ranches to Purchase County Owned Land (Acct # 42587):

Judge Grasty explained the location of this parcel, and is one that really is a fit for sale due to the location. Commissioner Nichols moved to put the parcel described as Assessor's Account # 42587 up for public auction, Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of the timeline for completion of the Travel Management Planning on the Malheur and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests:

Steve Beverlin, Forrest Supervisor, Theresa Ghaliger, Public Affairs Officer and Christy Cheyne, Emigrant District Ranger were present to answer questions about the letter from Jim Pena regarding the Travel Management Plan. Supervisor Beverlin explained they were given approval to delay Sub Part B of the travel management rule until after the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision is completed. The letter of explanation from Regional Forrester James Pena is attached to the record of these minutes.

Christy Cheyne discussed the Izee Allotment Management Plan Environmental Assessment as well. The court will review and comment.

The Court reviewed the NEPA Tracking tool put together by Court staff, to track the various federal NEPA processes that are ongoing in order to be involved with discussions.

Amendment #01 of the Cooperative Improvement Agreement between ODOT and Harney County for Rock Production:

Roadmaster Eric Drushella explained the amendment to the original agreement. This is an extension of the original agreement. Judge Grasty moved to sign the agreement as presented, Commissioner Runnels second. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2015-04 Establishing a General Operating Reserve Fund:

Judge Grasty explained the need for a “rainy day fund”. The PERS Reserve fund was created in order to prepare for drastic changes in the PERS rate. That has since stabilized. Commissioner Nichols explained the history of surplus funds, stating years back they were placed in a contingency line, and the budget committee at the time didn’t feel there should be simple contingency lines, so it was placed in the Building Fund. This new fund would allow for an operating reserve, will appropriation authority resting with the County Court. Commissioner Runnels moved to sign Resolution # 3015-04 Establishing a General Operating Reserve Fund. Commissioner Nichols second. The Motion Carried unanimously.

Resolution #2015-06 Abolishing the Harney County PERS Reserve Fund:

Judge Grasty reiterated the explanation from above, however this resolution transfers \$100,000 to the 911 communications budget as a loan to cover a current budget deficit, and the remaining balance to the General Operating Reserve Fund. Commissioner Runnels moved to sign Resolution # 2015-06 Abolishing the Harney County PERS Reserve Fund. Commissioner Nichols second. County Clerk, Derrin Robinson asked if the resolution specified the transfer to the 911 Communications Fund was specified as a loan in the Resolution, or strictly administrative or legislative intent. Judge Grasty stated it does not state so in the Resolution, but it is the court’s intent that the transfer to 911 Communication be a loan that shall be paid back to the General Operating Reserve Fund. Judge Grasty called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2015-05 Appropriating Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition:

Judge Grasty explained the County has received unexpected federal grant funds for incident response capability. Commissioner Nichols moved to sign resolution #2015-05 Appropriating Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed a letter drafted in opposition of Oregon Senate Bill 941- Relating to Fire Arms. The court will sign and send.

**Correspondence**

-Early Learning Division- IGA Contracts.

-A Letter from the insurance company regarding funding bridge replacement on Old Experiment Road.

There being no further business, the court adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derrin Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

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