



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
February 18, 2015***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commission Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; David Ward, Harney County Sheriff.

Others in attendance included Angie Lamborn, Senior Center Director; Karen Moon, Watershed Council Coordinator; Shana Withee, Extension Agent; Dustin Johnson, Extension Agent; David Bohnert, Director of Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center-Burns; Willie Riggs, Regional Administrator, South Central Region; Samantha White, Burns Times Herald; Lori Cheek, Harney County School District 3 Board Chair; Dr. Marilyn McBride, Harney County School District 3 Superintendent.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the County Court Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Voucher Approval

Treasurer, Nellie Franklin, is unavailable so two signatures needed by County Court for the checks.

Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Old Business

Update on Sage Grouse

Judge Grasty and Commissioner Runnels will be discussing Sage Grouse issues at the conference in Washington D.C.

Judge Grasty also mentioned a national directive to the BLM to change the signage on the Steens Mountains, and it may be all the signs in the district. They are looking at more signs, all in the same format. Judge Grasty will ask BLM to come to County Court to discuss this issue and he will also raise this issue while in Washington D.C.

New Business

Review of Sam Kingrey's Application for an Approach off of Crane-Buchanan Road

Roadmaster, Eric Drushella, reviewed the application by Sam Kingrey for an Approach off of Crane-Buchanan Road. Commissioner Nichols made a Motion to approve the Application for an Approach off of Crane-Buchanan Road contingent on Eric Drushella's final inspection, Commissioner Runnels seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously. Court approved the application but Eric will sign the application after he does a final inspection.

Review of Dry Mountain Ranch's Application for a Utility Cut of Silver Creek Road

Roadmaster, Eric Drushella, reviewed the application by Wayne Evans of Dry Mountain Ranch for a Utility Cut of Silver Creek Road. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the application, Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

10:15 a.m., Angie Lamborn, Senior Center Director, seeking Transportation Plan approval

Angie Lamborn, Senior Center Director, discussed the changes in the Transportation Plan including new hours of operation and changes to unmet transportation needs. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the Harney County Public Transportation Plan dated February 2015, Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 a.m., Karen Moon, Watershed Council Coordinator, with a report on the Council

Karen provided an update to the Court on the Harney County Watershed Council. Discussion included the groundwater monitoring project, Harney WC 7 Basins Action Plan, Cottonwood Creek Knapweed Restoration, High Desert Youth Range, and the openings on the Watershed Council.

11:00 a.m., Shana Withee, Extension Agent, with an update on OSU Extension Service

Shana Withee, Extension Agent; Willie Riggs, Regional Administrator South Central Region (Lake, Harney, and Klamath Counties) and Director of Klamath Research Center; Dustin Johnson, Extension Agent; and David Bohnert, Director of the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center – Burns, provided an update on the OSU Extension Service. Topics of discussion included carryover funds and budget, Senate Bill 657, hiring of an Educational Program Assistant, expanding and providing additional services to Harney County, fundraising efforts for Lake Creek Youth Camp, 4H activities, and the High Desert Youth Range Camp. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to fund two (2) scholarships for the High Desert Youth Range Camp in the amount of \$250.00 for this fiscal year, seconded by Judge Grasty, motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty suggested scholarships be a regular budget item, to be discussed during budget meetings.

11:30 a.m., Bio-mass Cooperative discussion and possible action

Dr. Marilyn McBride and Lori Cheek, representing Harney County School District #3, discussed the Bio-mass Cooperative and boiler system project. The School District will pay \$10,000 to assist in the funding of a project manager to review Bio-mass boiler system project. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to expend \$10,000 from the building fund to fund a Bio-mass boiler system project manager, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water Use Requests

Correspondence to Review

Review of county comments submitted on the Steens Mountain Comprehensive Recreation Plan Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-OR-201-0045-EA)

Wasco County – Citizens Rights/Legislators Responsibilities

Judge Grasty will write a letter and review it with the County Court.

Lake Creek Youth Camp Fundraiser

Harney County Historical Society letter of thanks for Darrell Williams and Community Service

Late Items

Archive Center – no contract yet.

The Court discussed the status of the Harney County Fair Board budget and the possibility of finding their own fiscal agent.

Judge Grasty has 2014 Oregon Legislative Assembly posters from AOC if anyone needs one.

Discussion of Congressman Greg Walden's visit on February 17, 2015.

FEMA surcharges on flood insurance.

Scheduling

Set Budget Schedule: Tentatively scheduled for April 15 (afternoon), April 16 (all day), April 22 (all day), May 13 (all day), and May 27 (all day if needed), 2015.

Next County Court meeting will be March 4, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.