



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
January 21, 2015***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; Roger Stampke, Community Corrections.

Others in attendance included Barbara Cannady, Barb Kull, Susan Christensen (DEQ), Rod Dismore, Terry Carroll, Jack Reed, Georgia King, 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 January 7 and 14, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Vouchers were reviewed and approved by Court Signatures

Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Agenda Items

Archive Center contract with DAS will be signed at the next County Court meeting on February 4, 2015. Judge Grasty will be doing a tour of the building at 9 a.m. that morning and the Commissioners were invited to participate as well. The Court discussed the possibility of a County buy-out or a lease agreement.

There will be a mining summit on February 5, 2015, 9a-12p, in Baker County. Judge Grasty has asked Bill Burstow to attend the meeting and give a report to the County Court.

Judge Grasty made a Motion to appoint Joan Davies as interim representative on SEACT, Southeast Area Commission on Transportation, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Sage Grouse Update

Judge Grasty has scheduled a meeting on April 10, 2015, with Ron Yokum (County Counsel) and John Marzluff (Professor of Avian social ecology and demography, and wildlife-habitat relationships, University of Washington) to discuss Sage grouse issues. Judge Grasty has sent Harney County historical reports to John Marzluff and he has a class that will compile a data base to look at trending.

10:15 a.m. Discussion with DEQ regarding SB 245 and SB 263, Materials Management

The Court participated in a teleconference with David Allaway, DEQ. He gave an overview of SB 245 and SB 263 in order to help County Court make a decision on their position on these bills. The court discussed the increase in fees with input from Rod Dinsmore (C&B Sanitary Service) and Susan Christensen (DEQ).

Discussion regarding the Community Corrections Department

Judge Grasty gave an update regarding the Community Corrections Department. Roger Stampke will be attending a bi-monthly meeting of Oregon Community Corrections staff, and he has also requested a mentor. There is a training plan in place which would include Harney County staff traveling to other counties to receive training and then there will be a follow-up peer group to review current practices. A job description for Community Corrections Director has been advertised and there has been one letter of interest submitted to date.

11:00 a.m., Georgia King with a request by residents of Stanclift Lane for speed limit change

Georgia King, Jack Reed, and Terry Carroll attended County Court to present a letter regarding the unsafe speed limit on Stanclift Lane. The current speed limit is 55 mph and the residents would like this changed. Judge Grasty requested that Eric Drushella, Roadmaster, begin the process for this request. Georgia King will be the representative for the group and was told to keep in contact with Sharon Johnson regarding the progress.

Report on two applications received for Beautification Loans

County Court received two applications for beautification loans from Beauty on Broadway and Sage Country Inn. Both applications were reviewed by the committee and both were approved.

Review of the Certification of SRS Funds used for Title III projects

After some discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Nichols to sign and submit the Certification of Title III Expenditures by Participating County form, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, with no further discussed the motion passed unanimously.

11:30 a.m. Marty Suter and Zola Ryan from NRCS to report on funding for Sage Grouse restoration

Zola Ryan presented the Court with background information on the New Regional Conservation Partnership Program (USDA-RCPP) application process. Marty Suter provided the Court with specifics including a handout Subject: RCPP Summary – The Oregon Model to Protect Sage-grouse. The Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse was one of the 2015 selected RCPP projects in Oregon with an award of \$9 million. There will be a regular NRCS local work group meeting on February 18, 2015, 10a-12p, in the Courthouse basement meeting room and another meeting tentatively scheduled for March 12th to discuss long range strategy. Commissioner Nichols would like to attend the meeting on February 18th, which is a County Court meeting, and suggested they adjust the agenda so he can do so. Judge Grasty will discuss scheduling with Sharon Johnson to ensure any pressing issues will be discussed in the afternoon.

Update on the Beaty's Butte grazing issue

Commissioner Runnels gave an update on the Beaty's Butte grazing issue, especially regarding the wild horse issue. The next meeting is in Lakeview on Wednesday, January 28, 2015.

Review of Water Use Requests

Correspondence to Review

Judge Grasty's letter to Harney County Deputy's Association beginning contract negotiations. Executive session after next County Court meeting to discuss.

Tom Sharp - retirement

Late Items

Commissioner Runnels updated the Court on the Housing Authority Meeting. It appears Ada County (Idaho) has an 8-year waiting list so it is possible that individuals are coming to Oregon for vouchers. Judge Grasty requested Commissioner Runnels to complete a position paper on this topic to take to Washington D.C.

Scheduling

Taylor Grazing meeting – March 3, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at BLM Office

Next County Court meeting scheduled for February 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 adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk