



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
March 19, 2015***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 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; Tom Sharp, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

Others in attendance included Herb Vloedman; Lori Cheek, Harney County School District 3 Board Chair; and Steve Howe, Burns Times Herald;

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Herb Vloedman requested 2014/2015 911 budget and the year-to-date expenditures, and the proposed 2016 budget. Judge Grasty directed Herb to request the 911 information from LaDene Hurd, and the 2016 budget is not available at this time.

Voucher Approval

Old Business

Update on Sage Grouse

Judge Grasty will be attending the Sage grouse Rules Advisory Committee meeting in Burns on Thursday, March 19, and Friday, March 20, 2015. The meeting will include the Department of Land Conservation and Development administrative rule committee. The goal of this meeting is to review the draft document and have an administrative rule in place before the July 2015 meeting. The big question of this meeting is the definition of "large scale disturbance."

New Business

Resolution #2015-04 in the Matter of Changing the Use of a Fund

Judge Grasty advised the court this resolution is not completed. This matter will be discussed at next County Court meeting.

Resolution #2015-03 in the Matter of Declaring a Drought

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve Resolution #2015-03 In the Matter of Declaration of Local Disaster and Request to Declare a State Drought Emergency for Harney County, Oregon, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, after some discussion between the Court and Tom Sharp, the motion carried unanimously. Tom Sharp will get a copy of the signed resolution to the Oregon Emergency Management and then it will immediately go to the Governor for signature.

Discussion regarding the Biomass Boiler Project

Lori Cheek, Harney County School District 3 Board Chair, gave the Court an update on the Biomass Boiler project including the completion of the job description for a project manager for review by the Court, incorporation of the co-op, creation of a 5-person board, hiring of the project manager, funding source opportunities, and legal assistance on the contracts. Judge Grasty suggested the scheduling of an afternoon work session for the Court and other interested parties to discuss all the issues and questions.

Budget correction for the 2014/2015 budget year

In the 2014/2015 County Budget, Fund 252 Harney County Fair, the revenue line reflecting receipt of a transfer from the Fair Reserve is shown as a debit when it is a credit. Judge Grasty made a motion to change 2014/2015 County Budget Fund 252, line 252-3-052500, from a debit to a credit, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, with no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2015-02 in the Matter of Amending the 2014/2015 Budget for Fund #227, Early Learning Council Hub

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-02 in the Matter of Amending the 2014/2015 Budget for Fund #227, Early Learning Council Hub, Commissioner Runnels seconded, without further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Review of an application by Duane Grant to Purchase County Owned Land Account #59089

The Court reviewed the application by Duane Grant, Grant 4-D Farms/Whitehorse Ranch, to purchase county owned land. Judge Grasty made the motion to approve the application by Duane Grant and bring Tax Lot #1000 to auction with the caveat that if the land owner completely surrounds the land in question it must be combined with an existing tax lot, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty will discuss this request County Counsel.

Review of an application by Jerry Miller (Bell A Grazing Co-Op) to Purchase County Owned Land Tax Lot #7100

The Court reviewed the application by Jerry Miller, Bell A Grazing Co-Op. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the application by Jerry Miller and

bring to auction the County owned land Tax Lot #7100, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, with no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding a 1992 Agreement between the US Postal Service and the City of Burns

Judge Grasty discussed a 1992 agreement for the artwork that is currently on display in the Harney County Courthouse. This artwork ("Cattle Roundup" by Jack Wilkinson and four fresco vignettes by Una Wilkinson) is on loan from the US Postal Service to the City of Burns. The City of Burns agreed to display the artwork in the Harney County Courthouse. Judge Grasty will forward a copy of this agreement to the City of Burns for their records.

Gun Legislation

The County Court is aware that other Oregon counties have passed resolutions or sent letters to the Oregon legislature requested there be no legislation that would affect the constitutional rights of gun ownership. County Counsel has reviewed this and currently there is no legislation that would affect gun owners. County Counsel advised the County Court to take no action until there are any bills affecting gun ownership.

Report from Judge Grasty regarding the recent Harney County Parks Committee meeting

Judge Grasty provided the Court with information from the two Harney County Parks Committee meetings held recently. The committee will provide the Court with a formal report in the next few weeks. The Court agreed to seek bids to make repairs to the Boy Scout Cabin at Theimer and pay for the work from the Park Reserve.

Correspondence to Review

Northeast Oregon Forests RAC Coordinator – Thank You

Bill Rosholt – Workforce Board Member recruitment
Bill Anderson and Randy Fulton

Shane Theal, BIFZ/Malheur NWR – County-wide fire cooperators spring meeting
County-wide fire cooperators spring meeting on April 13 9a at BLM, Burns District Office.

Burns District BLM – wild horse gather

Late Items

Watershed Council Appointments

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to appoint Diane Rappaport to the Harney County Watershed Council to fill the concerned citizen position, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, after no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Harney County Fair Board Appointments

Judge Grasty made a motion to re-appoint members Jim Kelly and Kevin Pryse to the Harney County Fair Board, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty met with the Harney County Fair Board on Wednesday, March 18, and reminded them that the County Court has the responsibility of appointing members to the board. The Fair Board requested a transfer of the \$75,000 that the County had budgeted but the Court made a motion to fund up to \$75,000 and accurately track that side of their expenses, matching the amount. This year, \$56,000 has been transferred, last year it was just under \$70,000, and the Court expects the amount this year to be about the same. Other topics of discussion included hiring of staff, Harney County Fair Board going out on their own with their own accountant, budgeting, and funding for repairs.

Commissioner Nichols discussed the recent meetings he has attended including the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative meeting and CCP annual review. Commissioner Nichols asked Linda Beck to attend a future meeting to update the Court on their plans, goals/objections, and accomplishments.

Judge Grasty provided information on the Highway 395c Hazard Trees removals by ODOT.

Scheduling

SE Oregon Symposium on the Arts and Economic Development on May 19 & 20 in Burns.

Next County Court meeting scheduled for April 1, 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 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk