



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
March 4, 2015***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; and Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk.

Others in attendance included Samantha White, Burns Times Herald; Dean Whitt, Rhonda Karges, and Mandy McCroo, BLM; Ron Copeland, American Legion and Band of Brothers.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Voucher Approval

Opportunity for Public Comment

Ron Copeland, American Legion and Band of Brothers, provided the Court with an update on the American Legion Veterans Assistance Fund (AL VAF).

Old Business

Update on Sage Grouse

Judge Grasty updated the Court on the Sage Grouse issue and meetings. The next meeting will take place in March, 2015, in Burns.

Signing of the Archive Center Lease

County Court reviewed the draft of the Archive Center Lease with District Attorney Tim Colahan. After some discussion, Commissioner Runnels made a motion to accept the lease between Harney County and BCASWF, motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols, motion carried unanimously.

Awarding of the IT Contract

Judge Grasty made a motion authorizing the County Judge to sign the IT Contract, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

10:15 a.m., Rhonda Karges, Dean Whitt, and Mandy DeCroo of the BLM, to discuss the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Sign Plan

Representatives from the BLM Burns District participated in a discussion regarding the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Sign Plan. The Sign Plan directs all signs to be in a uniform format across the United States. The Court expressed their support of the replacement of signs due to disrepair but would like to keep Harney County signage unique. The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) is aware of this plan and is actively participating in the discussion as well.

Further discussion included wild horses, land use, cooperation, Steens Mountain Running Camp, and NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act).

Discussion regarding the 9-1-1 Budget

The Court discussed the shortfall in the 9-1-1 fund. No action was taken at this time but will be addressed during the next County Court meeting.

Report on the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference attended by Judge Grasty and Commissioner Runnels

Judge Grasty discussed the NACo meeting attended with Commissioner Runnels in Washington D.C.

Review of Water Use Requests

Correspondence to Review

None

Late Items

Application for Approval to Install a Culvert and/Or Approach From A County Road by Kirk Davies

After some discussion, Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the application by Kirk Davies, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, motion carried unanimously.

Application for Approval to Install a Culvert and/Or Approach From A County Road by Erin Maupin

After some discussion, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the application by Erin Maupin, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, motion carried unanimously.

Application for Approval to Install a Culvert and/Or Approach From A County Road by Kyle Kaino

After some discussion, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the application by Kyle Kaino, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty gave an update on the State Weed Board.

Judge Grasty discussed the insurance offer for the replacement of bridge #25A57 on Old Experiment Road. With the help of legal counsel, the Court will respond to the insurance company and advise County Court.

Scheduling

Next County Court meeting scheduled for March 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. Reconvened at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.