



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

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 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; Nellie Franklin, Treasurer; and Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk.

Others in attendance including Steve Howe, Burns Times Herald; Howard Richburg and Josh Giles, U.S. Forest Service; Mark Owens, Barbara Kull, Barbara Cannady

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2015, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

**Voucher Approval**

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Judge Grasty discussed with the Court the local radio station, which went off the air recently. He has spoken with Representative Walden's office on how the County can help the community, especially in regards to emergency management. Loren Emang, Emergency Preparedness, will be looking into different options for getting information out to the community in case of an emergency situation.

The Harney County Fair has been working hard to rectify their budget issues but is still currently in the red. Judge Grasty has been in contact with Don Slone on a weekly basis to discuss current and future plans. The Harney County Fair Board will continue to address funding concerns during their regular board meetings.

Judge Grasty discussed the progress toward a negotiated settlement for the bridge on Old Experiment Station Road. He said there is a check for \$95,000 coming to Harney County.

Judge Grasty made a Motion for the Court to authorize Judge Steve Grasty to sign for a permission code for access to the Oregon Department of Education E-Grant Management System (EGMS), Commissioner Nichols seconded the Motion, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

#### Consideration of a funding request from Training and Employment Consortium for OYCC

The Court discussed the letter from Michael Simpson, Training & Employment Consortium (TEC), requesting \$12,500 to be used for crew leader, crew member, and administrative costs. This amount was appropriated in the current budget. Commissioner Nichols made a Motion to award \$12,500 to TEC for the OYCC program, Commissioner Runnels seconded the Motion, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

#### 10:15 am, Howard Richburg, Brian Speeg, and Josh Giles of the Forest Service with a presentation on Title II Proposals

Howard Richburg and Josh Giles discussed the Title II Proposals which included Marshall Creek Aquatic Restoration, 2016/2017 YCC Crew for ECRD, Thinning and Grapple Piling, ECRD Recreation Facilities Improvement Project, and Ant Aspen Restoration. The Court will review and prioritize the projects, and report back to the USFS with the Court's recommendations.

#### Update on the Owyhee Canyonlands project

Judge Grasty gave an update on the meeting he attended as a representative of the Harney County Court. The meeting was a presentation by ONDA on the Oregon Canyonlands project, 2.5 million acres of wilderness conservation area and national monuments.

#### Update on water issues in the Harney Basin

Commissioner Nichols and Mark Owens provided an update on the recent meeting they attended regarding water issues in the Harney Basin.

11:00 am, County Planning Director, Brandon McMullen, to present an update to the Planning Commission Bylaws, for approval

Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, presented the Court with a revision to the Harney County Planning Commission Bylaws. The purpose of the change to Article 10, Findings and Decisions Preparation, is to streamline the process for individuals working through the local land use process and shorten the internal process time to finalize the written findings. The current process can take about two (2) months and the changes to the bylaws can shorten the process time to approximately one (1) month. The Planning Commission and legal counsel both supported the draft language, and recommended it be presented to the Court for approval. Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the changes to the Harney County Planning Commission Bylaws, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding cost savings for the County Budget

Judge Grasty discussed countywide cost saving measures to be presented at the Harney County Department Head meeting on November 5, 2015. First, request that all employees take five (5) furlough days between now and June 30, 2016, with the understanding that all offices are to be kept open during regular business hours and no use of part-time or on-call staff to cover the vacancy. Secondly, written rationale to the County Judge and/or Court to fill any vacant positions. Thirdly, review efficacy of all County programs. There are also two future cost increases for the County involving health insurance and PERS.

Review of the heating project for the County

Judge Grasty requested putting the courthouse heating system out for bid on November 5, 2015, to be reviewed during December 2<sup>nd</sup> County Court meeting. Our current boiler is condemned and a new boiler is needed to tie into the new biomass system. There may be grant monies available (2017-2019) for courthouse upgrades through the State court system. In addition, the heating system in the jail failed recently and there needs to be a long term solution for it.

Discussion regarding the Rural Fire Protection Associations budget

Judge Grasty discussed a recent meeting with the six (6) Rural Fire Protection Associations.

Review of Water Use Requests

Sage Grouse update

Executive Session as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

### **Correspondence to Review**

BLM Boise & Vale District Office – notice of a Document of NEPA Adequacy for the Soda Fire Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation actions

U.S. Department of the Interior – Payments in Lieu of Taxes

### **Scheduling**

Next County Court meeting will be Tuesday, November 24, 2015, at 10:00 am.

### **Late Items**

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

### **Adjournment**

The Court recessed for Executive Session at 11:50 am, and then reconvened at 12:10 pm, with no decisions made during Executive Session. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.