



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

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 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 including Paul Woodworth, ODOT; Steve Howe, Burns Times Herald; Shana Withee, OSU Extension; Annette Devitt, Rutgers Cooperative Extension; James and Lynda Ward, Mary Ausmus, Brandon Baron, and Mark Owens.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2015, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Voucher Approval

Opportunity for Public Comment

Mary Ausmus requested information on who can serve on the Board of Property Tax Appeals (BOPTA). Harney County Clerk, Derrin "Dag" Robinson, explained the appointment process.

Lynda Ward expressed her appreciation to the Harney County Court regarding their decisions involving marijuana in Harney County.

Old Business

None

New Business

10:15 am, Shana Withee, OSU Extension Agent, with the annual Intergovernmental Agreement between Harney County and OSU

Shana Withee, OSU Extension Agent, discussed with the Court the Intergovernmental Agreement and Vehicle Use Agreement. Commissioner Dan Nichols made a Motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Harney County and OSU, seconded by Commissioner Pete Runnels, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Pete Runnels made a Motion to approve the Vehicle Use Agreement for the Harney County Extension, seconded by Judge Grasty, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously. Shana will return fully executed copies to Sharon Johnson.

10:30 am, Paul Woodworth, ODOT District 14 Manager, to discuss the US 395 Vance Creek culvert replacement project and temporary highway closure in November

Paul Woodworth provided the Court with information regarding the Notice of Bridge Work, US 395-C Culvert Replacement Project. ODOT will be replacing two culverts identified as high risk locations, Sheep Gulch and Vance Creek Culverts. US 395 will be closed between mile post 2.5-C and 17-C for about 10 days beginning November 4, 2015. Other topics of discussion included details of the culvert projects and traffic impacts.

Paul also discussed the signal replacement project at the intersection near Burns High School. The start date is Monday, October 26, 2015, and is expected to take 30 days. The Court discussed how the project will affect traffic.

Establish a new fund – Lottery Economic Development Fund

Judge Grasty discussed the need for a new Dedicated Fund for State Lottery dollars received by Harney County. Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve Resolution #2015-13 In the Matter of the Establishment of a Dedicated Fund for Furthering Economic Development, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water Use Requests

Update on Sage Grouse

1:15 pm, 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

Work Session – no decisions will be made

Correspondence to Review

Oregon Water Resources Department – monthly water report

Scheduling

County Court meetings for November will be November 4, 2015. Due to meeting conflicts, the second County Court meeting in November has been changed to Tuesday, November 24, 2015.

Late Items

Judge Grasty discussed with the Court a land use decision before the Harney County Planning Commission within a sage grouse priority area.

Judge Grasty provided information to the Court regarding the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction, 9/21/15 version 2.

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

Adjournment

The Court recessed at 10:15 am for Executive Session (with no decisions made), and reconvened at 10:30 am. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.