



**In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County**  
***Minutes of the County Court***  
***Sept 2, 2015***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday Sept 2, 2015. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending all or portion of the session were Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk; Eric Drushella, Road Master; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director; Jim Campbell and Steph Bonson, Weed Control.

Others in attendance included Samantha White, representing the Burns Times-Herald, Kelly Edmondson, Karen Moon, Barbara Cannady, Susan Bush, Susan Christenson; Department of Environmental Quality and State Representative Cliff Bentz.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2015 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Vouchers were reviewed and approved by Court Signatures.

**Public Comment:**

Kelly Edmondson shared concerns he had with discussions regarding Hospice. He said he didn't have an opinion as to what the Court's plans were with that Department, However he wanted assurance that the Hospice Memorial Fund be kept as a public fund, and be protected for only Hospice Use. Judge Grasty thanked Mr. Edmondson for reminding the Court of that Fund, and the purpose of it.

**DEQ Agriculture / Pesticide / Business / Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event:** Susan Christensen, from DEQ, was present to announce a collection event in

Harney County for October 3, location TBA, for the purpose of collection of hazardous waste. They are seeking volunteers to assist and an orientation meeting will be held on September 6<sup>th</sup> for this purpose. The court offered to help in any way and thanked her for this event, as it has been desired for some time.

Judge Grasty provided a brief Sage Grouse update, and discussed his recent meeting with United States Dept. of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

### **Legislative Session Review**

State Representative Cliff Bentz provided the Court with a review of the 2015 Legislative Session, and action plan for the 2016 Special Session.

### **Symmetry Care Contract**

Chris Siegner and Melodi Molt, representing Symmetry Care were present to review the contract to operate a community mental health program for Harney County. After review, Commissioner Nichols moved to sign the contract, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### **Vote Tally System**

Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk; provided the court with a presentation regarding a proposed vote tally system upgrade. The current system is 2003 technology, and is aging. Robinson recommended moving to a newer technology before the 2016 election cycle. Robinson has reviewed all three systems that are currently certified to tally votes in Oregon. Robinson proposed a system provided by Clear Ballot Group, Inc. The system is software based, rather than hardware based as the current system is, and is the most affordable, scalable system available for a jurisdiction of our size. The ballot printer would remain the same. Robinson stated the Election Equipment Reserve Fund was established for this purpose. By consensus, the court authorized Robinson to move forward with the procurement of the proposed tally system from/with Clear Ballot Group. The contract will be placed in the Commissioners Journal.

### **Trails in the EFRU Zone**

Brandon McMullen, Planning Director was present to discuss the required County Land Use Planning Process in regards to a proposed "Trail System". Such a thing will require a conditional use permit. Article 6 of the Harney County Comprehensive Plan discusses the process. Judge Grasty would like to ask AOC for a resolution to not endorse any national monument or trail that has does not have the support and have gone thru the local process. A lengthy discussion ensued, and no action was taken.

### **Public Health Contract**

Judge Grasty recognized for the record that he reviewed and signed the Agreement # 148011 Oregon Health Authority 2015-2017 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services on June 26, 2015. It has been filed in the Commissioners Journal. (CJ2015-166).

### **Water Use Requests**

There were no objections to any request.

### **Executive Session**

The Scheduled executive session as per ORS 192.660(2)h) to consult with legal counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed did not occur, due to lack of availability of Counsel.

### **Insurance**

Judge Grasty explained he, the Treasurer and the finance staff have been reviewing options for employee health insurance with the Agent of Record, and will come up with a recommendation by the end of September.

There being no further business, the court adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrin (Dag) Robinson, C.C.C.  
Harney County Clerk