



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
January 6, 2016***

The Harney County Court convened in the Harney County Circuit Court Room at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2016. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Pete Runnels and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Nellie Franklin, County Treasurer, Deanna Atwell, Finance Dept.; John Copenhaver, Juvenile Director; Loren Emang, Emergency Preparedness; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director; Julie Burri, Home Health & Hospice Director; Laura Cleland, Public Information Officer; and Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk.

Others in attendance included Mark Owens, Shana Withee, Barbara Cannady, Herb Vloedman, Forrest Keady, Anne Scissons, Caitlin Dickson; Yahoo News; and Samantha White, Burns Times Herald.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2015, meeting, and the Special January 4th County Court meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Voucher Approval

County Court Comments

Each of the court members expressed their concerns regarding the armed occupation of the refuge.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Herb Vloedman inquired of the Court as to if they have taken a position on the minimum wage proposed legislation. Judge Grasty stated the court had not discussed the matter yet.

Mark Owens Thanked the Court for their work in dealing with the current refuge occupation, and keeping the interest of the people of Harney County at the forefront.

Forrest Keady thanked Commissioner Nichols for explaining his intent while visiting the refuge. He then explained the reasons he and his family visited there as well.

Old Business

None

New Business

Order Appointing Budget Officer for 2016

Commissioner Runnels moved to appoint Steven E. Grasty Budget Officer for 2016, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried. (CJ 2016-04)

Order Appointing Justice of the Peace Pro-Tempore for 2016

Commissioner Runnels moved to Appoint Vicky Clemens, John Lamborn, and Matthew R. Fine as Justice of the Pro Tempore for 2016. Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously. (CJ 2016-03)

Order Designating Newspaper of Official Publication for 2016

Judge Grasty moved to sign the Court Order Designating the Burns Times Herald as the newspaper of official publication for 2016. Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously. (CJ 2016-02)

Judge Grasty introduced Laura Cleland, Interim Public Information Officer for Harney County.

The Court reviewed a proposed Social Media Policy, and discussed the need for one. The Court also discussed un-official use of the County logo. Commissioner Runnels moved to adopt the Harney County Social Media Policy, and authorize the Public Information Officer to create Official Facebook, and Twitter Accounts for Harney County and Harney County Sheriff's Dept. Commissioner Nichols seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Brandon McMullen, Planning Director reviewed the Goal 5 DLCD Technical Assistance Grant updates. The Court urged Mr. McMullen to keep "people" listed as a resource.

Tony Svejcar, Research Director at the USDA Agricultural Research Center was present with an update on their programs and scientific research projects. The court expressed gratitude as the scientific agricultural research outcomes are invaluable to agriculture nationally.

Julie Burri, Director Home Health and Hospice, provided a review regarding their Quality Assurance Performance Improvements (QAPI) data for 2015. The court approved, and suggested no further directives. (Exhibits are filed with these minutes).

Late Items

Commissioner Nichols moved to appoint Wayne Evans to the Fair board. Commissioner Runnels second, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

-Letter Dated December 17, 2015 Regarding BLM Renewal of Grazing Permit

-Western Juniper Alliance Meeting Notice- dan reiterated that Harney County started this, with a goal to get funding for juniper utilization.

-Letter dated December 16, 2015 from Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) stating the commission may revise the baseline subject to rule amendments coordinated with the counties in regards to the sage grouse administrative rule.

There being no further business, the court adjourned 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin Robinson
Harney County Clerk