



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
January 20, 2016***

The Harney County Court convened in the Harney County Circuit Court Room at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 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.; Laura Cleland, Public Information Officer; and Derrin (Dag) Robinson, County Clerk.

The list of others in attendance is on file with these minutes.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2016 County Court meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Voucher Approval

Accounts Payable were approved by Court signatures.

Opportunity for Public Comment

The following individuals expresses concerns and comments regarding the continued armed occupation of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge: Melodi Molt, on behalf of the "Committee of Safety"; Forrest Keady; Herb Vloedman; Paul Hyland; Barbara Cannady; Vanessa Leathers; John Lamborn; Mark Owens and Ron Copeland.

County Court Comments

Each member of the court expressed their concerns regarding the armed occupation of the Refuge, the fact that they agree with everyone's comments and concerns today, their desire for it to end peacefully, and for the community to begin to heal from this situation.

Judge Grasty recognized Karen Wagner from Senator Merkley's office, and Mike McArthur, Executive Director of the Association of Oregon Counties.

Ms. Wagner commented, in regards to the Hammond matter, legislators are not allowed to get involved in Court matters. In regards to the concerns regarding government over-reach, it is loud and clear there is a message to be heard by our legislators, and it is powerful. She said Senator Merkley hears it.

Mike McArthur explained the roll of the Oregon Association of Counties. He and Laura Cleland, Operations Officer; have been here in Harney County all week assisting in any way they can.

New Business

In the matter of a request by landowners to place a speed limit on North Steens View Lane, Commissioner Runnels moved to direct the Roadmaster to move forward with a speed analysis, as required by Oregon Dept. of Transportation on North Steens View Lane. Commissioner Nichols seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ron Copeland, representing the American Legion, provided the court with an update on the American Legion Veterans Assistance Fund. See attached accounting.

Lisa Moody, Treasure Valley Community College presented the annual Contract-Out-of-District Service Delivery Agreement between Harney County and Treasure Valley Community College for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$13,098.80. Judge Grasty explained historically the court has committed to these dollars to ensure that folks here have access to higher education in our community. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the contract, Commissioner Runnels seconded. There was some discussion regarding the time frame for payment, and the motion carried unanimously.

Guy McKay, Veterans Services Officer, and Ron Estep were present to request housing for the DAV van, and building an awning for cover. Roadmaster Eric Drushella has no objections of placing it at the Road Department. He was directed to work with Mr. McKay and Mr. Estep to find a solution.

The Court reviewed a letter of request for appointment to the Fair Board. The Court will verify there is a position available and advertise to fill if there is.

Representatives of Oregon State University Extension Service including Shana Withee, Melissa Woodbury, Dustin Johnson, Willie Riggs and David Bohnert presented the court with an annual review of their programs and accomplishments.

Correspondence (included with packet)

Malheur National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions, Winter 2016

Donation to Search and Rescue from Charlie Grant, III

Letter from Bureau of Veterans Affairs

BLM, Vale District- Integrated Invasive Plant Program

US Board of Geographic Names

BLM, Burns District- Wild horses

The Court adjourned the regular session at 3:30 p.m., The Court reconvened in a work session in Judge Grasty' s office, with guests in attendance, no action was taken.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin (Dag) Robinson
Harney County Clerk