



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County  
Minutes of the County Court  
September 7, 2016***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2016. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols, and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Road Department; Lori Cheek, Juvenile Department; and Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk.

Others in attendance including Mark Owens, Tara Thissell, BLM; Gregg Hayes, Thornfeldt Land and Cattle; Cheryl Smith, Crane Rangeland Fire Protection Association; Jerry Boyd, Capital Equipment; Barb Cannady.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2016, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

**Voucher Approval**

**Opportunity for Public Comments**

Gregg Hayes, General Manager of Thornfeldt Land and Cattle, discussed a road issue regarding Penny Lane between Hwy. 20 and Hwy. 78. They would like to gravel the road with some help with gravel costs from the County. Penny Lane is a private road (Meadowland Ranch) and the County, at this time, cannot put County dollars into the road. Judge Grasty gave two options; 1) make Penny Lane a local access road, and 2) establish a road district. The Court gave information on how to start the process on establishing a road district. Judge Grasty asked for contact information and will discuss this issue with County Counsel before the next County Court session.

Cheryl Smith, Crane Rangeland Fire Protection Association, had questions regarding 911/dispatch contract. Judge Grasty referred her to the Sheriff's Office to answer her questions.

Commissioner Nichols asked Tara Thissell if BLM could improve communication of Steens Loop Road closure/opening information to rural businesses.

### **Old Business**

Update on ODOT contracts for the Juntura Cut-off Road project – signing of contracts  
Judge Grasty will consult with County Counsel, and the contracts will be discuss in Executive Session before signing.

#### Update on the boiler project

Judge Grasty updated the Court on the progress on the boiler project. The trenches are not filled in yet because they are doing pressure testing on the pipes. The staff has been advised of the hazard and reminded not to jump over the trench. Heating/Cooling units are being installed, and thermostats will be installed. All in-window air conditioners will be removed. The underground tank will be removed in preparation for the cooling tower. Judge Grasty and Lori Cheek discussed finances, feasibility plan, grants, and expansion. Heating for the jail is still an issue being addressed.

### **New Business**

#### 10:15 a.m., Lori Cheek, Director of Juvenile Department, with an update on the department

Lori Cheek provided the Court with information regarding the services provided by the Juvenile Department. She discussed new employee, Brooke Nyman, individualized and specialized programs for juveniles, the juvenile justice services provided, cross training with the District Attorney's office, development of strong state partnerships, development of Harney County Teen Court, implementation of Laserfiche for records, and changes in their office space.

#### Consideration of the County Counsel Contract

County Court reviewed the contract and identified some changes that need to be made. Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to table the Harney County Counsel Contract until the next County Court meeting on September 21, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussed the Motion carried unanimously.

#### Appointments to the EOCCO Local Community Advisory Council

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to accept James Jordan and Val Hebener to the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO) Local Community Advisory County (LCAC), seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

#### Appointment to the Library Advisory Board

Commissioner Runnels made motion to re-appoint Diane Smith to the Library Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried with Judge Grasty abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Discussion regarding the Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal Environmental Impact Study

Judge Grasty gave an update to the Court.

Review of Water Use Requests

Work Session – FEMA flood maps and road improvement projects

This work session is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

**Correspondence to Review**

BLM, Burns District – Steens No Livestock Grazing Area Fencing EA

BLM, Burns District – Notice of Final Decision to Issue a Grazing Permit for: Ross & Anna Defenbaugh, Heidi Guertin, Pueblo Mountain Land Company and Jim & Helen McDonald.

BLM, Vale District – proposed herbicide and vegetation in Owyhee Canyon fire area.

BLM, Vale District – emergency stabilization and rehabilitation in Juntura Complex fire area.

BLM, Burns District – Riddle Ranch Potable Water Well.

BLM, Vale District – Three Fingers Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather update.

**Scheduling**

Next County Court meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

**Late Items**

The Court discussed numerous upcoming meetings.

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

**For the Record**

**Adjournment**

The Court adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The Court held a work session at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the FEMA flood maps and road improvement projects.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tammy Johnston  
Deputy Clerk