



In The County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the Special Session of County Court
January 4, 2016

The Harney County Court convened for a special emergency session in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office at 10:30 am on Monday, January 4, 2016. The purpose of the special emergency session was to discuss the Bundy refuge takeover situation. Members in attendance were Judge Steve Grasty, and Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also in attendance were Sharon Johnson, Harney County Court Assistant; Tim Colahan, Harney County District Attorney; Randy Parks, Burns Times Herald; Tim Freeman, Douglas County Commissioner, and Loren Emang, Harney County Emergency Preparedness.

Press releases will be done, as needed, depending on the situation and how it evolves. Press releases will be given to the Burns Times Herald and posted on the main page of the Harney County website at www.co.harney.or.us.

Judge Grasty voiced his concerns regarding the financial costs of this situation to Harney County government and the residents of Harney County. Some of the costs, so far, have been for a Public Information Officer and additional law enforcement.

Judge Grasty discussed the media coverage and how to facilitate the dissemination of information to members of the media and the public. Commissioner Freeman discussed his experience with coordination of media, local residents, and law enforcement during an emergency situation.

The Harney County Courthouse will be open on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. BLM will be closed all week. There will be a law enforcement meeting today and they will be discussing local school closures.

Tim Colahan updated the Court on the January 4, 2016, law enforcement briefing that occurred at 9:00 am, with multiple agencies including Harney County Sheriff's Office, FBI, OSP, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and other Sheriffs from Oregon. Another meeting will occur at 11:00 am and other tactical meetings will be scheduled as needed. There will not be any armed entry into the facility by law enforcement unless

there is a threat of harm or danger to subjects. Peaceful resolution is the goal and this will take some time, so containment of the situation is an ongoing process. The FBI will be sending a behavior specialist to Harney County to assist in the plan to contain this situation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk