



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
August 3, 2016***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 3, 2016. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor; Tim Colahan, County Counsel; Angie Lamborn and Guy McKay of the Senior Center and Sharon Johnson, County Court Administrative Assistant.

Others in attendance included Samantha White, Burns Times Herald; Tara Thissell, BLM; Bill Dragt, BLM; Joan Armstead, Barbara Cannady, Mark Owens and Melodi Molt. Mary Ausmus and Dan Winn were in attendance for a short time.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve minutes from the July 20, 2016 meeting, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Voucher Approval

Opportunity for Public Comments

Mary Ausmus voiced her objection to the \$25,000 the County has donated to the Harney County Opportunity Team for the Arrowhead project.

Old Business

Mr. Drushella explained the application, by Dan Winn, for an approach off of King Street. Judge Grasty said that Bev LaFollette had called to express her concern about the location of the approach. Mr. Drushella explained that he had looked at the location and they had chosen a location that did not have a blind spot. Judge Grasty said that he had driven to the location on Tuesday and concurred with Mr. Drushella's assessment. Discussion followed. Mr. Drushella made a recommendation to the Court to approve the Approach Application. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the application, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Special Public Works Fund Development Project Financial Contracts for the Juntura Cut Off Road project. Judge Grasty began the discussion by explaining the contracts.

Judge Grasty was asked at the last County Court meeting, during the discussion regarding the OLCC Renewal Notification Process, to speak to Law Enforcement regarding the OLCC licenses pending renewal in Harney County; he said there are no issues with any of the establishments on the list. No action was taken as the County is not required to do anything unless they are recommending denial of a particular license.

The possible regionalization of LCDC was discussed. It was suggested that a committee work with the Court to discuss the Pros and Cons.

Judge Grasty explained that the reason for signing a Property Conveyance for property located at 111 West Washington, Burns, Oregon, purchased by Harney County Community Corrections, was due to House Bill 2127. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the Conveyance, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Tara Thissell, BLM, was present to update the Court on BLM plans to create public access parking in the Pike Creek area to alleviate trespassing on private property. The BLM will pay for the construction and maintenance of the parking area. Ms. Thissell said this is an interim solution; that someone is working with the landowner to find a more permanent solution in the next few months. Judge Grasty suggested having a written Agreement between the BLM and Harney County; Ms. Thissell said she will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding.

Bill Dragt, Supervisory National Resources Specialist for the BLM, was in attendance to explain the BLM implementation of recommendations to use fuel breaks and green strips; he noted that fuel breaks would not reduce the AUMs on the allotments. Mr. Dragt suggested the Court provide comments on the plan; August 22nd is the deadline for comments. Commissioner Nichols said he would write the comments.

Resolution #2016-11 in the Matter of Responding to the Auditor's Management Letter for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015, a resolution required by the State, was explained by Judge Grasty. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve Resolution# 2016-11, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty then explained Resolution #2016-10 In the Matter of Appropriating Funds Due to an Unexpected Occurrence or Condition – DEQ Recycling Grant. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve the Resolution, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Runnels presented names for approval to add to the Community Advisory Council (CAC) to the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization; Barbara Crafts, Nicolette Houck, Melinda Bentley, Dan Grigg and Ron Wulff. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve all, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Lease between Harney County and Oregon State University for its Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center was reviewed. The length of the term of the lease has been extended from the customary five years to 15 years and everything else remained the same as previous leases.

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the signing of the Lease by Judge Grasty, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Memorandum of Agreement Relating to permitting and Inspection of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems reviewed. The MOA sets forth the roles and responsibilities of DEQ and Harney County for performing services within the Onsite Wastewater Management Program in Harney County. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the MOA, Commissioner Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Guy McKay, Harney County Veterans Services Officer, explained the County application to receive Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Funds. Mr. McKay also presented his Quarterly Report of Expenditures. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to sign the application to receive ODVA funds, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The letter from DEQ regarding the No Further Action Determination on the former Tim's Time Savor Market, 306 Hwy 20 N, Hines, LUST number 13-02-0005, was reviewed and discussed. No action was necessary.

Judge Grasty said that he had a couple of late items. 1) Regarding the shooting range, he and Eric Drushella had met with the BLM and the Sportsmen's Club about County participation in ownership of the shooting range property 2) Membership Forms for the Crane Rangeland Fire Protection Association for coverage of the landfills. Both items were discussed briefly.

Commissioner Nichols said there were a couple of things that came up during the Goal 5 meeting in Frenchglen 1) the recreational community in Frenchglen isn't communicated with sufficiently by the BLM about the opening and closing of Steens Mountain Loop Road. He said he would mention it to Tara Thissell of the BLM. 2) The businesses in Frenchglen have no high speed internet access, that it might be worth talking to Vicky Walker, USDA State Director, and mention to her that there is a need in the community for high speed internet and bandwidth and see what she can do for funding.

Commissioner Runnels said that Harland Yriarte was told that the permit for his annual Running Camp on the Steens was going to be really tough to renew due to Sage Grouse issues. Judge Grasty suggested having Mr. Yriarte attend a County Court meeting to discuss the permit.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Johnson
County Court Assistant