



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
November 2, 2016***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols, and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending were Tim Colahan, County Counsel; Karen Moon, Watershed Counsel; Eric Drushella, Road Department; and Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk.

Others in attendance including Samantha White, Burns Times Herald; Tara Thissell, BLM; Mary Ausmus, Mark Owens, Barb Kull, and Barbara Cannady.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2016, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Voucher Approval

Opportunity for Public Comments

Barbara Cannady asked a question regarding funding for rural schools.

Old Business

Update on the Juntura Cut-Off Road project

The Court discussed the Juntura Cut-off road project and associated documents including, 1) the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EP Minerals LLC, Harney County and Malheur County; 2) Immediate Opportunity Fund Agreement, Juntura Cut-off Road & Harney County Repaving (No. 31407); 3) Special Public Works Fund Development Project, Financing Contract; and 4) State of Oregon, Strategic Reserve Fund, Loan Agreement.

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between EP Minerals, LLC, Harney County and Malheur County, Immediate Opportunity Fund Agreement Juntura Cut-off Road & Harney County Repaving (Misc. Contracts and Agreements No. 31407), Special Public Works Fund Development Project Financing Contract, and State of Oregon Strategic Reserve Fund Loan Agreement, seconded by Judge Grasty, with no further discussion the Motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Nichols voting no.

Water discussion

Karen Moon, Watershed Council Coordinator, discussed the Harney Valley Groundwater monitoring phase 2 grant application. She discussed a request for \$3,000.00 matching funds from Harney County, which would be requested during the next budget year.

Mark Owens advised that the changes requested by the Court to the USGS Resolution will be made without any further documentation from the Court. He provided the Court with three (3) possible outcomes from the study and requested a community meeting to ensure that the residents of Harney County are aware of all possible scenarios, so Harney County can be proactive in developing a water management strategy. Commissioner Runnels will schedule the informational meeting, with the assistance of Karen Moon and Mark Owens.

New Business

Discussion regarding the Public Health Department

Darbie Kemper is no longer employed at the Public Health Department; Grant County staff will be in Harney County at least once a week to help with the administrative functions until an administrator can be hired. The Court authorized Judge Grasty to draw up a contract between Harney and Grant Counties. Judge Grasty discussed other staffing issues.

Review of an invitation to a grasshopper information meeting

A grasshopper information meeting has been scheduled for December 13, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in the Harney County Courthouse basement meeting room. Judge Grasty will make sure the invitation is sent out to all interested parties.

Discussion regarding County roads

Judge Grasty advised that Harney County has been asked by ODOT to consider the possibility of Harney County accepting Highway 205 South (Frenchglen Hwy) into the Harney County road system, and consider what compensation would be requested from the County. The Court will review this request and discuss at a future County Court session.

Resolution #2016-18 In the Matter of Transfer for Spending Authority at Harney County Fair

Commissioner Nichols made a Motion to approve Resolution #2016-18 (CJ2016-131), In the Matter of Transfer for Spending Authority at Harney County Fair from Harney County fund #326, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Review of the Harney County application to the BLM for Land for Recreation or Public Purposes

The Court discussed the shooting range transfer from BLM to the County. The Court will review the application and take action at the next County Court meeting.

Approval of the appointment of Kathy Rementeria and Dauna Wensenk as board members to the Housing Authority of Malheur and Harney Counties

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to appoint Kathy Rementeria and Dauna Wensenk as board members to the Housing Authority of Malheur and Harney Counties, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding the Employee Handbook

Judge Grasty requested the Court review the Employee Handbook, with the goal of having it completed and approved by the end of 2016.

Notice to Undivided Interest Record Holder

Judge Grasty discussed the undivided interest on a property, account #93449. The redemption period expires on November 13, 2017. All Harney County undivided interest records are available in the Harney County Tax Assessors office.

11:30 a.m., Executive Session as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

2:30 p.m., Executive Session as authorized by ORS 192.660(2)(b) to consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent who does not request an open hearing.

Correspondence to Review

Senator Jeff Merkley – Harney Community Energy biomass heat project

BLM, Vale District – burned area of the Juntura Complex

BLM, Vale District – burned area of the Owyhee Canyon fire

NACO – Participation and Membership Benefits Report

Gil Riddell – First Annual Forest Management Subcommittee Membership Meeting

Judge Grasty will attend this meeting only and the participant will change as of 2017.

Malheur National Forest – Schedule of Proposed Actions, Fall 2016

Scheduling

Next County Court meeting will be Tuesday, November 22, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

Late Items

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

For the Record

Adjournment

The Court recessed at 11:30 a.m. for Executive Session, and reconvened at 1:08 p.m. The Court recessed at 2:00 p.m., and reconvened at 2:30 p.m. for Executive Session. With no further discussion, the Court adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk