



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court
October 5, 2016***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Grasty's office at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 2016. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols, and Commissioner Pete Runnels. Also attending were Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; Eric Drushella, Road Department; Tim Colahan, County Counsel; Brandon McMullen, Planning Department; and Donna Thomas, Justice Court;

Others in attendance including Samantha White, Burns Times Herald; Tara Thissell, BLM; Shana Withee, OSU Extension; Susan Christensen, GEODC; Joan Armstead, Louis Smith, Cheryl Smith, Barbara Cannady, Mitzi Defenbaugh, Paul Hyland, Mary Ausmus, and Mark Owens.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2016, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Voucher Approval

Opportunity for Public Comments

Public comments made by Mary Ausmus, Paul Hyland, and Mitzi Defenbaugh.

Angie Lamborn, Harney County Senior Center, presented the Court with the 2017-2020 Area Plan. There is a link to the plan on the Senior Center page of the Harney County website and Judge Grasty requested the link be placed on the main page as well.

Old Business

Resolution #2016-17, Drought Declaration

The Court will review Resolution #2016-17, and a decision will be made at the next County Court meeting.

Update on the boiler project

Judge Grasty gave an update to the Court on the boiler project.

Discussion on grasshoppers

Judge Grasty discussed with the Court various issues including funding, Malheur Refuge involvement, and December 2016 meeting.

LCDC discussion

New Business

Discussion on vacancies on Court appointed committees (SEACT – South East Area Commission on Transportation)

Judge Grasty announced there are three (3) current vacancies on the SEACT.

Report on possible asbestos exposure in the Courthouse

Judge Grasty supplied the Court with information from the possible asbestos exposure to County employees during the HVAC system installation. Pacific Technologies, Inc. took air samples in the Tax Assessor's Offices and the lobby. The results from the air samples indicated a results below .01 (clean air is anything below .01).

Road Department updates

Eric Drushella, Road Department, discussed the road striping project completed after chip sealing, crack sealing machine purchase, and the Catlow shoulder work.

Court Order in the Matter of Appointment of Kathy Stinnett, Harney County Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore

Commissioner Nichols made a Motion to approve the Court Order in the Matter of Appointment of Kathy Stinnett Harney County Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Review of an application by Phillip Singhose for an approach on Miller Canyon Road

Eric has reviewed the project and requested additional work, which will be completed by the applicant. Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the application by Phillip Singhose, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Order in the Matter of Appointing a Pool of Members for the Harney County Board of Property Tax Appeals (BOPTA)

Commissioner Nichols made a Motion to approve the Order of Appointing a Pool of Members for the Harney County Board of Property Tax Appeals, seconded by Commissioner Runnels, with no further discussion the Motion carried with Commissioner Runnels abstaining. Peter Runnels and Hilda Allison were appointed as members of the Chairpersons pool of the BOPTA, and Hilda Allison, Robert Oswald, and Mardy Stewart were appointed members of the non-office-holding pool of the BOPTA.

Review of changes to the Harney County Library Internet Use Policy

Commissioner Runnels made a Motion to approve the changes to the Harney County Library Internet Use Policy, seconded by Commissioner Nichols, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Susan Christensen, GEODC, discussion

Susan Christensen discussed the Small Business Succession Planning Workshop on October 19, 2016, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Harney County Community Center.

Correspondence to Review

BLM, Vale District – EA for proposed invasive plant management

BLM, Vale District – Emergency stabilization and rehabilitation action

DEQ – Landfill compliance inspections at Diamond, Frenchglen, and Fields disposal sites

Kate Brown, Governor – September 21, 2016, hearing: “An examination of FEMA’s Limited Role in Local Land Use Development Decision.”

Scheduling

Goal 5 meeting on October 5, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Harney County Senior Center.

The next County Court meeting will be on October 19, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

Late Items

Brandon McMullen, Planning Department update

Brandon McMullen presented the Court with a report entitled “The Future of Oregon’s Agriculture Land.” This document is available on-line and he will put a link to it on the Harney County website.

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

For the Record

Adjournment

County Court recessed at 11:40 a.m., and reconvened at 11:45 a.m. for Executive Session. After no further discussion, the Court adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk