



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court Session***

February 1, 2017

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Pete Runnel's office at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Mark Owens, and Commissioner Patty Dorroh. Also attending were Nellie Franklin, Harney County Treasurer; Deanna Atwell, Finance/Human Resources Manager; Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Rick Paul, interim Fair Manager; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director; Jim Campbell, County Weed Control Coordinator; and Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk.

Also attending were Mitzi Defenbaugh, Pamela Reid, Forrest Keady, Barb Kull, Barbara Cannady, Tammy Wheeler, Julie Weikel; Randy Fulton, Harney County Economic Development; Jerry Woodfin, Burns City Mayor; Brenda Smith and Rachel Beaubien, Harney County Watershed Council; Holly Orr, BLM; Samantha White, Burns Times Herald; and Colby Marshall and Tygh Campbell, Silvies Valley Ranch.

Work Session 9:15 – 10:00 a.m.

Voucher Approval

Nellie Franklin and Deanna Atwell reviewed the accounts payable and vouchers. The Court reviewed and approved the vouchers by Court signature, and signed checks.

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2017 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Owens, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Mitzi Defenbaugh thanked the Court for their continued work and appreciated the changes to the Courtroom.

Pamela Reid asked questions regarding a management consultant hired by the Harney County Senior Center to write a strategic plan. Judge Runnels and Commissioner Owens addressed her questions.

Barbara Cannady made a request for County Counsel, Tim Colahan, to work on the Meadowlands project.

Old Business

None

New Business

Review of a Mineral Rights Application submitted by Tyler & Enna Kaady

The Court discussed the Mineral Rights Application submitted by Tyler & Enna Kaady. The Court also reviewed and discussed the application process. It was the consensus of the Court to proceed with the request.

10:15 a.m. Jim Campbell, County Weed Control Coordinator, seeking a Weed Board member approval and to provide his annual report

Jim Campbell discussed the Harney County Weed Control annual report dated February 1, 2017. Topics of discussion included SWAT Cooperative Assistance Agreement, County road noxious weed control, involvement in the Cooperative Weed Management Area group, and the African Rue state grant project. In addition, the Weed Board currently has an individual interested in being on the Weed Board. Judge Runnels directed Jim to see Sharon Johnson to obtain information on the terms for current Weed Board members and advertise the openings in the Burns Times Herald. Anyone interested in being on the Weed Board needs to submit a letter of interest. The Court will address Weed Board member approvals at the next County Court meeting.

10:30 a.m. Colby Marshall & Tygh Campbell, Silvies Valley Ranch, with an update on the Resort timeline and job opportunities

Colby Marshall and Tygh Campbell gave a presentation on the Silvies Valley Ranch project. Topics of discussion included timeline for opening, public presentation opportunities, employment opportunities, and facility details. There was also a question and answer period.

11:00 a.m. Guy McKay with a quarterly update and discussion regarding homelessness Rescheduled for the next County Court meeting.

11:30 a.m. Brenda Smith, Watershed Council, with a Place Based Planning update

Brenda Smith and Rachel Beaubien, Harney County Watershed Council, discussed the grant received to begin an integrated water planning effort for Harney County using the

collaborative process. This is a new program with Water Resources and Harney County is one of four pilot programs in Oregon that received the grant. The plan will be considering many concerns such as groundwater, municipal water supply, flood management, and water quality. The Watershed Council has been contracting with Oregon Consensus for facilitation to ensure that they can make the best community decisions and develop the plan in a holistic manner. The Water Resources Department is a full partner through the whole process. There are four steps to complete the plan by 2019: 1) Building community support for the process and to ensure broad participation, 2) information gathering phase, 3) establishment of working groups and development of the plan, and 4) implementation of the plan. The Watershed Council has hired Gretchen Bates on a part-time basis to help increase awareness and coordinate the effort. There will be an irrigation seminar on February 6, 2017.

Discussion of the Budget Board meeting schedule for 2017

Commissioner Owens discussed a conflict with the Budget Board meeting scheduled on April 26, 2017. This meeting will be changed to May 4, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Appointment of a Justice of the Peace Pro Tem

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the Court Order In the Matter of the Appointment of Vicky J. Clemens Harney County Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore for 2017 (CJ2017-19), seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Signing of a Declaration of Local Disaster and State of Emergency

The Court discussed Resolution #2017-02. Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve Resolution #2017-02 In the Matter of Requesting an Emergency Declaration for Harney County, Oregon (CJ2017-20), seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water Use Requests

Correspondence

Prairie City Ranger District – Soliciting Comments on three grazing allotments

Scheduling

County Court work session, February 8, 2017, 5-7 p.m., in Judge Runnel's office

Next County Court scheduled for February 15, 2017, at 9:15 a.m.

Late Items

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

For the Record

Adjournment

County Court recessed at 12:00 p.m., and reconvened at 1:13 p.m. There being no further business, the Court adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk