



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

***July 19, 2017***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Pete Runnel's office at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2017. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Mark Owens, and Commissioner Patty Dorroh. Also attending were Deanna Atwell, HR/Finance; Brandon McMullen, Planning; and Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk.

Public attending were Tara Thissell, BLM; Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald; Steve Beverlin, Malheur Forest Supervisor; Harmony Burrignt, Oregon Water Resources; Chris Siegner, Symmetry Care Director; Barbara Cannady and Marjorie Thelen.

**Work Session 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Voucher Approval**

The Court reviewed accounts payables, signed checks, and approved the vouchers by Court signature.

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2017, County Court meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Marjorie Thelen thanked the Court for supplying event facilities for the recent Democratic Committee Conference. The conference was well attended and everything ran smoothly.

## **Old Business**

### **Flood Issues**

Commissioner Owens and Judge Runnels gave an update to the Court regarding flood issues including self-insurance, surveying, and feasibility study grant. The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Runnels' office.

### **Economic Development discussion**

Four (4) proposals were submitted for the Economic Development contract and the screening committee met to review them. The decision was made to interview all four (4) candidates on July 26, 2017.

## **New Business**

### **10:15-11:15 a.m., Malheur Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin with an update on the Blue Mountain Forest Revision Plan**

Steve Beverlin, Malheur Forest Supervisor, gave an update and discussed the Blue Mountain Forest Revision Plan. Topics of discussion also included 2017 solar eclipse coordination, Harney County public land use concept, hazard tree removal project, and roads.

### **Review of the Malheur National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) -Summer 2017**

Steve Beverlin, Malheur Forest Supervisor, discussed with the Court the Malheur National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions (Summer 2017).

### **11:15 a.m. Harmony Burrig, Oregon Water Resources (OWR), to update the Court on Place Based Planning and the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee**

Harmony Burrig, OWR Planning Coordinator, updated the Court on the community based water resource planning efforts in Harney County. OWR is pilot testing this new approach to water planning in Oregon. It is a community based, locally led, more balanced and integrated approach, with the goal to understand and meet the water needs of the community, the economy, and the environment. It is co-convened by the County Court, represented by Commissioner Owens and the Watershed Council, represented by Brenda Smith. Other topics of discussion included funding, group process and composition, working agreements and work plan, and presentations by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Oregon State University. The first subcommittee that has been formed is the water availability working group.

The Groundwater Study Advisory Committee meets quarterly with Harmony Burrig, OWR, in the facilitator role. The main focus right now is data collection. The next step will be the review of the data. Other activities include review of well logs, digitization of data, groundwater level measurements, mapping data, chemistry samples by the USGS, and identification of the vegetative cover over the basin. The State funding has been secured through the next biennium.

Review of the Renewal Contract with Symmetry Care for mental health services  
Chris Siegner, Symmetry Care Director, discussed the Personal Service Contract between Symmetry Care and Harney County, and answered questions regarding Symmetry Care services. Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve the Personal Service Contract between Symmetry Care and Harney County, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water Use Requests

1:30 p.m. presentation of an award by Katie Anderson of the State Library to the Harney County Library

Harney County was one of 5 libraries chosen to receive the 2016 Outstanding Project, Ready to Read Grant. Katie Anderson, State Library, presented the award to Lisa Moody, Harney County Library, and Channon Rebeiro, Harney County School District #3. Lisa Moody discussed the library programs and successes, and the collaboration between the library and the school district.

**Correspondence**

Forest Service-Prospective Bidder notice

**Scheduling**

Next County Court meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2, 2017, at 9:15 a.m. in Judge Runnels' office.

**Late Items**

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

**For the Record**

**Adjournment**

County Court recessed at 12:10 p.m., and reconvened at 1:15 p.m. There being no further business, County Court adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston  
Deputy Clerk