



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

April 23, 2019

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2019. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also in attendance were Derrin Robinson, County Clerk; Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor; Jodi McLean, Home Health/Hospice Director and Tim Colahan, County Counsel.

Work Session 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Voucher Approval

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

General Session 10:00 a.m.

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the Minutes from the April 10, 2019, County Court session and Commissioner Owens seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Herb Vloedman made a verbal offer to donate land located beside the Kings store to the county for the purpose of building a combination fire/police/public safety facility for both cities and the county, with the stipulation that within a year, the three entities must reach a written agreement to proceed with the consolidation, and another year to develop a plan to fund and develop the site. Judge Runnels thanked Herb and Ann Vloedman as that is a generous offer to the communities.

Mitzi Deffenbaugh asked for information of what the highest grossing industry is in the county. Commissioner Owens agreed to get that information to her.

Commissioner Dorroh stated there is one Harney County position open on the Eastern Oregon Workforce Board, and that citizen volunteers consider serving.

Old Business

Judge Runnels asked for confirmation from county counsel on the end of the 30-day redemption period for the Woods property. County Counsel Tim Colahan explained once the 30-day period has passed a deed will be recorded to the county. At that point the county can begin clean-up of the property.

New Business

Inclusive Emergency Planning

Suzanne Settle provided an over view of the March 21st roundtable discussion on Inclusive Emergency Planning- helping emergency managers across Oregon become more fully inclusive of people with disabilities.

Liaison Counter for the United States Census Committee (for Harney County)

The Court will advertise for a volunteer for this very important position.

Treasure Valley Community College Local Center

Lisa Moody explained recent cuts that Treasure Valley Community College has made to the program in Harney County. The GED program has been removed, and the center director has been cut to 19 hours per week. She suggests if the budget is not acceptable, to address it with the TVCC Director. Judge Runnels explained the relationship, and believes the court likely needs to begin the search for a different higher education provider to serve our county.

Transient Lodging Tax

The court discussed the idea of imposing a county-wide Transient Lodging Tax (TLT). Judge Runnels explained it is a way of generating revenue from outside sources. 70% is required to fund tourism related activities, 30% would go to the general fund. The court is working with county counsel for clarity yet as to whether it can be imposed without a vote of the people and imposed by Ordinance of the County Court. The next step will be to determine rate and the avenue to implement the TLT. Commissioner Owens asked the audience if anyone would be opposed to implementing and there were no objections from the audience. It was suggested to inquire if RV parks would qualify as well.

Resolution 2019-14 Intra-fund Appropriation Transfer within Categories

County Treasurer Bobbi Jo Heany explained the resolution as moving the authority to spend from one category to another. After review, Commissioner Owens moved to

adopt resolution 2019-14, Commissioner Dorroh seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicapped Status

Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Policy, as presented. Commissioner Dorroh seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Water User Requests

There were no objections to any requests.

Correspondence

Letter from Malheur National Forest regarding lists of timber sale projects.

Scheduling:

County Court Meetings: May 8, May 22 (last of the 2nd and 4th week meetings, and returning to normal 1st and 3rd Wednesdays after that).

Budget Committee Meetings: May 9, May 10, May 15, and 21st.

Judge Runnels hopes to determine by the May 9-10th days to determine where the impending budget cuts will be made.

The Court adjourned the regular session at 11:09, a.m., and convened in executive session at 11:15 a.m. as authorized by ORS 192.690 to consult with counsel concerning the rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation, or litigation likely to be filed.

The court adjourned at 11:45 with no action taken.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin Robinson
Harney County Clerk