



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

January 2, 2019

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also in attendance were Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; and Eric Drushella, Roadmaster;

Public attending was Representative Lynn Findley, Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald; Greg Smith and Denise Rose, Harney County Economic Development; Paul Hyland, and Rick Paul.

Voucher approval was postponed due to the holidays. Vouchers will be approved the Commissioners will review them later this week.

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the Minutes from the December 19, 2018, County Court session. Commissioner Owens seconded the Motion, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Commissioner Owens gave updates on two (2) previous water use requests.

New Business

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Representative Lynn Findley

Representative Lynn Findley discussed the 2019 legislative session. There are 45 committee bills (all revenue generation bills) including a carbon policy/carbon bill which is a high priority for the Governor, Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate; biomass tax credit for Harney County that is moving through the process; and housing bills. Additional topics included priority bills and deadlines, committee assignments (revenue, joint taxation, energy/environment, veterans and preparedness, joint transportation committees); 911 funding for small counties, to provide a better stable funding base for 911 centers; County Fair funding support from the State; Eastern Oregon Land Use Bill; and support for the establishment of a broadband office in the State, a focal point for rural broadband. Representative Findley asked the Court to “stand by to stay engaged.” When real people come to Salem and provide testimony on legislation, legislators pay attention.

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Greg Smith Quarterly Update on Economic Development

Greg Smith, Economic Development Director, and Denise Rose, Assistant, addressed the Court to give their quarterly update. Economic development historically experiences a slowdown between November 20 – January 2 due to the holidays. From January 2 through April, there is definitely a spike in activity so they will be gearing up for the increase in activity. The priorities for 2019 are: 1) SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunity, and Threats) Analysis review and implementation; 2) Training opportunities for new and established business owners; and 3) training opportunities for the economic development assistant. Greg recommended a conversation between the County and Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) regarding what role the college would like to play in small business development. Additional topics included challenges for funding for entrepreneurs, “fishing” letters, broadband and wireless connectivity for businesses, funding opportunities, and possible collaboration with Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative’s (OTEC) comprehensive economic marketing website.

11:15 a.m. Signing of the Annual Orders in the Matter of Approval and Appointment of County Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and Designating the Official County Newspaper for the Year 2019

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve the Order in the Matter of Appointing Judge Runnels as a County Budget Officer for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (CJ2019-02), and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve the Order in the Matter of Designating the Burnes Times-Herald as the Official County Newspaper for the Year 2019 (CJ2019-01), and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water Use Requests

Correspondence

United States Department of Interior, BLM Bonneville Power's Glass Butte Right of Way Project

Scheduling

Next County Court Meeting on January 16, 2019, at 9:15 a.m.

Swearing in and picture for elected officials on January 7, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

Schedule the rural meetings at the next County Court session on January 16, 2019.

Possible change of May 2019 County Court meeting TBA

Late Items

RHC is now authorized to accept VA patients, with prior approval from the VA.

David McDonald and Jennifer Foster, Harney County 911 Dispatch, visited Slater Elementary and South Harney School in Fields. They gave a 911 outreach presentation which included information on 911 and a mock 911 call.

Deliberation by the Court (no decisions will be made)

For the Record

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Court, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston

Deputy Clerk