



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

***June 27, 2019***

The Harney County Court convened on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the County Court Chamber. Members present in person were Judge Pete Runnels and Commissioner Patty Dorroh. Commissioner Mark Owens appeared by telephone. Also present for portions of the meeting were County Clerk Derrin Robinson, and Deputy Clerk Kerry Opie.

Public in attendance was Herb Vloedman.

Judge Runnels opened a public hearing in the Matter of the 2019-2020 Budget. He explained actions taken by the Court to reduce spending in the 2018-2019 budget in order to achieve any sort of ending fund balance, including furlough days for county employees, across the board spending cuts, employee attrition, and several lay-offs.

Herb Vloedman asked about staff that didn't have to furlough, and stated there was an employee that came to him that was paid for their furlough days. Judge Runnels explained furlough was limited to General Fund employees. Mr. Vloedman stated he didn't believe this staff person was outside of General fund, but was letting it go.

He asked what the hard number of how deep the debt was. Judge Runnels stated it was 2.34 million dollars over a 5 year period. He explained to Mr. Vloedman it was attributed to computer software programming, in that the beginning fund balance produced by the software program was projected, rather than actual. The Court has met with the software vendor, and the issue has been corrected.

Mr. Vloedman asked for a copy of the current year ending budget, and next week, a copy of the adopted budget. He asked if the county had considered a forensic audit. Commissioner Dorroh stated the court has asked the Secretary of State and Dept. of Justice to do so, and they do not do those audits. Judge Runnels stated George Wilber, of Oster Professional Group who is a forensic auditor, looked at the expenditures.

Mr. Vloedman state the court will borrow from the Road Department, but asked how it would be paid back by December 31. Judge Runnels stated the Revenue starts coming in, and 85% of taxes are paid in November. Judge Runnels stated it will take up to 10 years to make up the 2.34 million dollars. Commissioner Dorroh stated the Court is doing monitoring, and strategic long term planning to deal with it.

Mr. Vloedman stated the Court transferred from reserve funds, and now those are depleted, it will take years to replenish those funds. The Court agreed.

Commissioner Dorroh asked Judge Runnels about the appropriations, and what the Interfund Transfer lines entailed. Judge Runnels explained they are transfers out of the general fund, such as the transfer from Sheriff to 911. The landfills have those that include each one transferring for landfill financial assurance, The Road Department transfer is transferring to Weed Control.

Commissioner Dorroh asked if the total Appropriated and Unappropriated total is generally speaking 2.3 million less that it was. Judge Runnels stated it is lower than it was, however last year there was an additional \$6 million due to the pass through budgeted for the Juntura Road project.

Judge Runnels explained the new funds have been set up, Public Health, Rural Health, Home Health, Hospice and Predator Control.

Commissioner Dorroh asked when the Final Ending/Beginning fund balance would be known. Judge Runnels explained there are adjustments, expenses and revenue that will need to be applied to this fiscal year after tomorrow, but before the year is closed. At that point there will be the actual beginning fund balance. He reiterated this is only showing appropriated expenditures. It does not show any revenue.

Commissioner Dorroh asked if each Department was flagged as to if they go over a line-item. Judge Runnels stated yes, each Department head is aware, and frankly there will be some line item overages, it can't always be helped.

Commissioner Dorroh stated she hopes to meet with the budget committee quarterly and review revenue and expenses. Judge Runnels and Commissioner Owens both stated it is fine the committee review, but they are advisory, and it is the duty of the County Judge to address issues with department heads.

With no further public comment, Judge Runnels closed the Public Hearing on the 2019-2020 Budget.

Judge Runnels moved to Adopt Resolution 2019-19, in the Matter of Adopting the 2019-2020 Budget and Making Appropriations in the total sum of \$30,062,182.00, of which

\$15,334,547.00 are appropriated, and \$14,727,635.00 are unappropriated. Commissioner Owens seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Judge Runnels moved to Adopt Resolution 2019-18, in the Matter of Imposing and Categorizing 2019-2020 Taxes in the County of Harney, State of Oregon, at a rate of 4.5016 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Commissioner Owens seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Judge Runnels adjourned the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin (Dag) Robinson  
Harney County Clerk