



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

September 4, 2019

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2019. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also in attendance were Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor; David Ward, Sheriff; Lori Cheek, Juvenile Director; Derrin “Dag” Robinson, County Clerk; Deanna Atwell, HR/Finance; and Bobbi Jo Heany, Treasurer.

Public attending was Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald; Jeff Rose, BLM; and Colleen Shirts.

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 August 20, 2019, County Court session, and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Lori Cheek, Juvenile Director, thanked the Court for their support of the Juvenile Department and discussed Resolution #2019-26, additional funding of \$7,997.55 from the Oregon Department of Education in recognition of the juvenile crime prevention school liaison program and Teen Court. Approximately 80 juveniles are served with positive outcomes from both of the programs.

Colleen Shirts requested assistance from the Court regarding a recent incident that occurred when she and her husband visited Figaros Pizza. Judge Runnels will speak with the Harney County Health Department. The Court encouraged her to speak with the owners of Figaros and the City of Burns regarding her concerns. She also discussed property she is interested in purchasing which was further discussed during New Business of the County Court meeting agenda (County Land Sale Request South Diamond).

Old Business

Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Discussion

Judge Runnels informed the Court that he received three (3) cost estimates, ranging from \$10,000 to \$17,000, for formal evaluations of the value of the RHC. The Court was considering an offer of sale to Dr. Laiosa but Judge Runnels said she is no longer interested. The Court discussed their options regarding the RHC. Commissioner Owens made a Motion to not go forward with fair market assessment of RHC, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2018-87 Establishing Criminal History Record Check Policies Concerning Applicants for Employment and Appointed Volunteer

The Court reviewed Ordinance #2018-87, Establishing Criminal History Record Check Policies Concerning Applicants for Employment and Appointed Volunteers. Tim Colahan, County Counsel, has reviewed the Ordinance as well. Topics of discussion included: 1) the purpose of Ordinance, 2) clarification of the criminal history record check procedure and the importance of following Oregon State Police (OSP) guidelines by Dave Ward, Harney County Sheriff, and 3) Deanna Atwell, HR/Finance, discussed the current background check procedures. The Court will discuss the revisions with County Counsel and address at the next County Court meeting.

New Business

County Land Sale Request South Diamond

The Court discussed the Harney County non-typical foreclosure parcels which included the property on South Diamond. Derrin Robinson, County Clerk, and Colleen Shirts were involved in the discussion as well. County Court will discuss the process of the sale of these properties with the Harney County Tax Assessor and County Counsel regarding how to move forward on all the non-typical parcels, and will follow the normal procedures for typical County Land Sales. Colleen Shirts discussed the overgrown trees on the property on South Diamond and was directed to contact the City of Burns.

Resolution #2019-27 In the Matter of Appropriating Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition Oregon Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehab Grant

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve Resolution #2019-27 (CJ2019-138) In the Matter of Appropriating Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition Oregon

CDBG, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2019-26 In the Matter of Unexpected Occurrence Juvenile Department

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve Resolution #2019-26 (CJ2019-137) In the Matter of Unexpected Occurrence or Condition Harney County Juvenile Department, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Conversation on Predator Control This Year and Future

Commissioner Owens discussed predator control in Harney County. Topics of discussion focused on the contract with USDA APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), and predator control funding issues for 2020. Commissioner Owens' recommendation is to 1) make an addendum to the current contract to use the private party donations of \$11,000, and the \$8,000 Federal matching funds, in order to try to maintain the best services possible for 2019, and 2) separate the County from the USDA for predator control for 2020.

Review of Water Use Requests

Commissioner Owens discussed Water Use Requests

Correspondence

Office of the Secretary of State, Kip Memmott, Oregon Audits Division, regarding public financial accountability

The Court discussed the letter from Kip Memmott, Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division, regarding its limited review of Harney County's budgeting error. Their review did not identify any indications of significant risk not currently being addressed, The Court will publish the letter in the Burns Times-Herald in order to keep the public advised.

Scheduling

County Court Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

November County Court Schedule:

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

*Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Scheduling (Continued)

January 2020 County Court Schedule:

*Wednesday, January 8, 2020

*Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Budget Committee Schedule Change:

*Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 9a

Set Rural Meetings

Drewsey: October 9, 2019, 5:30-7 p.m.

Riley, October 15, 2019, 5:30-7p

NRAC Meeting, Tuesday, September 17, 2019, downstairs meeting room

Late Items

Sheriff Dave Ward, provided a letter to the Court announcing his final day as Harney County Sheriff will be January 2, 2020.

Deliberation by the Court (no decisions will be made)

For the Record

Adjournment

There being no further business, County Court adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk