

**Harney County Court Meeting  
January 6, 2010**

→The Harney County Court convened January 6, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steven E. Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were, Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Debbie Raney from the Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed and vouchers approved by court's signature.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the December 16 county court minutes as mailed. Judge Grasty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court discussed a request from High Desert Design to trade improvements to the building for past owed rent. The court felt it was a fair trade however needed clarification regarding the air compressor as it should be left in the premises. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the request to trade improvements to the building for past owed rent. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Regarding the application by Matt Goodson for an approach off of Hutchenson Lane Eric Drushella stated there was an existing approach at the location and no application was needed.

→Shana Withee and Dustin Johnson from the Extension Service were in attendance to give an overview of the Extension Service programs. They explained their funding, positions, duties and changes. Mrs. Withee presented an overview of 4-H activities. They informed the court of their budget reduction and registration fees which are now in effect for 4H participants. They explained some potential program that will probably be coming and wanted the court to be aware but would be back to discuss when there is concrete information.

→Tim Bodeen, Malheur Wildlife Refuge Manager and Chad Karges were in attendance with an update on the CCP (Comprehensive Conservation Plan). Mr. Bodeen stated they are wrapping up the pre-planning report which is due at the end of January and it is on schedule and time. He said they have identified issues and next will be working on the CCP starting in February with the collaborative partners. The meetings will likely start in March and get done in the summer. There will be many meetings and will take a lot of time and commitment. Commissioner Nichols and Judge Grasty both commented and expressed concerns on the collaborative process and how it will work. The court expressed their gratitude to Mr. Bodeen for their cooperation with the county.

→A hearing in regards of a request to transfer mineral rights to Mark Khan on a parcel of land he owns opened at 1:40 p.m. Mr. Khan has met all requirements set by the county for his request. The findings indicate that there is no mineral value on the parcel. Hearing closed at 2:05 p.m. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and authorize Judge Grasty to sign the order transferring the mineral rights. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign the resolution 2010-01 establishing a new fund to document expenditures for the Harney County Drug Treatment Court. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The Court made annual Official Appointments as follows:

→In the Matter of Designating an Official Newspaper for the publication of County Matters, Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to designate The Burns Times Herald to be the official publication for 2010. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→In The Matter of the Appointment of Justice of the Peace Pro-Tempore for 2010, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to re-appoint Sandra Richards and Stephen Finlayson for 2010. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→In the Matter of the Appointment of County Budget Officer for 2010, Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to re-appoint Judge Steven E. Grasty. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→In the Matter of the Appointment of Medical Investigator for 2010, Commissioner Nichols made a motion appoint Julie Burri. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→In the Matter of the Appointment of County Health Officer for 2010, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to re-appoint Dr. Holland Haynie. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to ratify the decision made by Judge Grasty in regards to signing the addendum to the Harney County Operations Plan. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court reviewed the BLMs Skull Creek Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact documents. It was the consensus of the court to submit comments in support of the EA.

→Executive session as authorized by ORS 192.660(d) to discuss labor negotiations convened at 2:07 p.m. re-convened into regular session at 2:35 p.m. No action taken.

→The court reviewed Water Use Requests from Oregon Water Resources Department. No objections were expressed by the court to any of the requests.

→Judge Grasty informed the court that AOC has not taken a position on the upcoming election for State Measures 66 and 67. They have agreed to provide information only, however they will have a meeting on Monday to debate this issue. Judge Grasty with the approval of the two County Commissioners will advocate and hold hard the association to not take a position and continue to provide information on the pros and cons of the ballot measures.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC  
Harney County Clerk