

**Harney County Court Meeting
November 23, 2009**

→The Harney County Court convened November 23, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steven E. Grasty and Commissioner Dan Nichols. Commissioner Drinkwater was unable to attend. Also attending were, Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending was, Patty Dorroh. She informed the court a meeting will be held later on today regarding Healthy Start as a portion of funding by the Commission on Children and Families.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the November 4 county court minutes as corrected with minor changes. Judge Grasty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed and vouchers approved and signed by the court.

→The court reviewed an application for an approach at Embree Bridge Road from Kyle Kaino. Judge Grasty made a motion to approve the application as recommended by Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor, updated the court regarding the need to purchase a dozer. He stated that MSHA had inspected the current one and found the noise level elevated therefore ended up with a citation, the operator does use ear protectors, however since this is an open cab there is no way to get around MSHA requirement. Mr. Drushella stated he feels that, due to the economy and winter arriving this is a good time to purchase a newer dozer. Mr. Drushella was advised to start the bidding process and see what is out there.

→Kenny McDaniel, BLM Burns District Manager was present with an update on Andrews, Burnt Car Road and other issues. He explained the temporary settlement between the BLM and ONDA in regards to the Burnt Car Road. The court expressed concerns regarding the temporary settlement as the court feels that ONDA is controlling what happens in our public lands and are trying to stifle every productive hope that our community has. Mr. McDaniel told the court to keep in mind that this is a temporary not a final settlement and that he's not simply giving in to their demands. He told the court that it is very important to comment on the EA. The issues of South Steens EA were also discussed. Mr. McDaniel stated that he will keep the county court's concerns in mind

when entering into these conversations. The court told Mr. McDaniel that the court values their relationship with the BLM and the need to work together to do it right.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve Ordinance #2009-66 to read it for the second time by title only. Judge Grasty read the Ordinance by title only. In The Matter of Amending the Harney County Comprehensive Plan (Ordinance No. 2002-51) To Incorporate Changes Which Allow For Optimal Administration and Accessibility. Judge Grasty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→A discussion was held regarding the high deductible insurance and Health Savings Accounts which the county will be providing the first of the year. Attending this discussion were Nellie Franklin, Treasurer, LaDene Hurd, Ted Tiller, Assessor and Sandy Richards. There was a lengthy discussion as to the amount that will be deposited by the County for the benefit of employees to the individual HSA. Judge Grasty will have a written policy for adoption by the court for next county court meeting.

→The court reviewed a letter from Bill and Patsy Wilber regarding a request from Rimrock Recycling to lease equipment. They are requesting the equipment continue to be stored inside the recycle building (excluding the dump truck) for security reasons. It was the consensus of the court to request Mr. Wilber and Rimrock Recycling come in to discuss this request at the next county court meeting.

→Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, was in attendance to discuss with the court, the request from Lake County to assume the onsite septic system program in both Lake and Harney Counties. It was the consensus of the court that this would be a great improvement from the current program. Mr. McMullen was directed by the court to set up a meeting with Lake County Commissioners and Harney County Court to discuss this proposal further.

→Judge Grasty noted that Burns and Hines have almost reached air quality non-attainment. He stated that both cities are working hard on this issue and have some creative ideas as to how control this issue.

→The court had a discussion regarding the LGPI study on wages. Ted Tiller, Assessor, suggested the county court look into having the cost of living increases applied to the range instead of having automatic steps. The court was very receptive to this concept and will look into it.

→The court set County Court meeting dates for the 9th of December instead of the 2nd and the 16th as regular scheduled.

→A letter from DEQ informing the County of approval of 2008 Harney Wasteshed Opportunity to Recycle Program was reviewed by the court.

→A request from HHOPE for release of \$1,200 as budgeted was reviewed by the court.

→The court reviewed public notice of water use requests from Oregon Water Resources Department. No objections expressed by the court to any request.

→Judge Grasty reported that the recent AOC conference held in Portland was a non-controversial and good conference. (Judge Grasty was installed as President of AOC for 2009-2010).

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk