

Harney County Court Meeting

November 3, 2010

The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were Road Supervisor Eric Drushella, and County Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. Public attending were Linda Johnson, Pete Runnels, County Library Director Cheryl Hancock, Hines City Mayor Ruth Schultz, Burns City Mayor Len Vohs and Debbie Raney Burns Times Herald.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the October 20, 2010 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Statistical and Financial reports were reviewed and vouchers approved by Court's signature.

Library Director Cheryl Hancock was present to explain the Library Board's recommendation to reduce the fee for a replacement Library Card from \$5 to \$3. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the Library Board's recommendation to reduce the fee as stated, Commissioner Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty gave an update on the Sage Grouse issue; he mentioned a meeting that would be held in Bend on November 9th at 8 a.m. at the Riverhouse. It is open to the public but the seating is limited. He also noted that the ODFW Commission agreed to postpone their decision and allow public input. Discussion followed.

GIS Coordinator Bryce Mertz explained the naming of a road in the Gray's Addition, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the Resolution to name the road Schoolhouse Lane, Commissioner Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business was a Mineral Rights application by James Wilson. Judge Grasty said that Mr. Wilson believes there is a County Road across the property. Road Supervisor Eric Drushella explained that there is actually no legally described road, that the deed includes a statement that the County puts on all deeds, for properties that have been foreclosed on, reserving a Right-of-Way. Judge Grasty suggested having another conversation with Mr. Wilson. The Court decided to take no action on the application until they could talk to Mr. Wilson.

Judge Grasty explained that the GIS Department has purchased a new plotter; that the old one had been offered to the schools and none were interested. Judge Grasty then suggested putting it out to public bid.

Judge Grasty told the Court that the USPS had recognized Harney County as the first County to submit their data into the USPS RIBBS (Rapid Information Bulletin Board System) program. Bryce Mertz, GIS Coordinator for the County explained the program.

The Court then discussed the request by Bill Wilber for a letter of support from the County Court for his appointment to the ODFW Commission. Judge Grasty said that many other County Courts/Boards of Commissioners were going to write letters of support. Consensus of the Court was to provide the requested letter.

Judge Grasty explained that a new set of stairs has been built for the Harney Behavioral Health building by Precision Machine. A contract had been executed with Precision Machine for the building of the steps; it was determined later that because Precision Machine didn't have a CCB licence they couldn't install the steps. A new agreement was then drafted to contract with Petrie Enterprises who does have a CCB license. Nothing changed except the name of the contractor.

Judge Grasty told the Court that Hobe Tiller had inquired about burning the slash piles at Theimer Park. Judge Grasty said that the project would be open to bid soon.

Judge Grasty opened a discussion on the Forest Service's plan to change the motorized access plan.

The Court then reviewed the Option and Land Lease Agreement between Harney County and New Cingular Wireless for a communications tower to be placed at the Fairgrounds. The Lease is for five years with four automatic renewals possible. Discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols asked if they have an easement with the City of Burns to get to the property. He then suggested requiring that issue be resolved and taking up the matter again at the next County Court meeting.

Cathy Stauffer and Chris Siegner, who attended by phone, of Harney Behavioral Health discussed with the Court the Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) money that would be received from the State. Ms. Stauffer explained the program and it's funding; she concluded by explaining that a Resolution was needed in order to use the funding provided by the State. Discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols asked where the employee would be located – Ms. Stauffer said that they are recruiting now and that the person would have an office in the HBH building. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adopt Resolution #2010-16 in

the Matter of Appropriating Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition, Commissioner Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Doug Gochmour, Malheur Forest Supervisor, was present to discuss the new federal travel rule and how it affects the Malheur National Forest. He assured the Court that they are not proposing to close any roads that are open today. The rule states that roads are closed unless mapped (maps will be created for every forest in the country). A lengthy discussion followed. He noted that the rule will not affect snowmobiling, bicycles, horses or firewood cutting and camping will be allowed anywhere within 300 feet of an open road; the rule ends cross county travel. There was a lengthy discussion following Mr. Gochmour's presentation.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Johnson
Secretary, Harney County Court