

**HARNEY COUNTY COURT MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2009**

→The Harney County Court convened November 4, 2009 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, Mark Palmer, Sam Kaser, Mark Maliwauki, Debbie Raney and Sam Glerup.

→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 October 21 court minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Mark Palmer owner of the former Frenchglen Millworks building in the industrial area of Hines was in attendance to express his concern regarding the county's acquisition of the LP manufacturing facility. He expressed concern about a prospective business visiting the LP building without his building being shown as well. Judge Grasty explained that not only were all the buildings on the LP property shown to this prospect but the Monaco building and the Palmer's buildings were shown to the prospect as well. It was explained that Judge Grasty did not believe he was authorized to allow someone to inspect the Palmer building but the door to the facility was open and the prospect had gone in to look at it.

→The court went on to explain that its single interest is to prevent the salvage and/or removal of the LP buildings and thereby to allow for the attraction of a job creating business to our community. The court stated that at any point should Mr. Palmer or any other interested party wished to acquire and develop the LP facility the court would be more than willing to get out of the way to allow that to occur. The Court believes the loss of these buildings is akin to the loss of our railroad several years ago and that if the community is going to have a good opportunity to attract businesses we should preserve the entire facility. The court will continue to encourage private sector investment for rather than county involvement.

→Sam Glerup asked if the county was trying to get a grant to purchase the LP manufacturing facility, the answer was yes. He requested that if that facility is taken down, the property is cleaned up as not to leave it as an eye sore. He also requested the court take a public stand on the coming tax referendums which will be voted on January 24, 2010.

→Sam Kaser, also expressed concerns regarding taxes, stating that school budgets are out of control, stated that expenses should be cut off the top not in the classroom. He also expressed concern regarding the recycling issue in the area. He was informed that Rimrock Recycling is trying to be reinstated and will do recycling.

→Elizabeth Moore and Debbie White were in attendance with a presentation on TEC/Worksource Oregon. They provided the court with a written program activities report. Ms. Moore stated that if jobs are brought in here they will provide the workforce. She also informed the court that a National Emergency Grant (Federal Grant) for Monaco's employees will more likely be awarded. This is specific for Monaco's dislocated workers for re-training and expenses associated with the dislocation.

→An application by Sam Duke for an approach off of Greenhouse Road was reviewed by the court. Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor, had no objections. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the approach as requested. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Mark Maliwauki, Business Development Coordinator, was in attendance to discuss the Strategic Investment Program (SIP) Vs. Rural Renewable Energy Zone (RREZ). He presented both overviews and the key differences between the two. Harney County already is A Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone (RREDZ) it was established on February 1, 2006. It was the court's consensus that they re-visit Resolution #2006-2 in regards to establish a Harney County Renewable Committee to assess if this committee should be established.

→The court acknowledged a letter from Oregon Wild, The Nature Conservancy and Defenders of Wildlife expressing their support for establishing appropriately scaled-biomass utilization infrastructure in Harney County.

→The letter from High Desert Design proposing to trade some of their assets for the past rent debt owed to Harney County. The court visited the facility during lunch where Ms. Debbie Cronin has now started a business making parts for Avistar. Commissioner Nichols proposed that Ms. Cronin business be the primary lease holder and High Desert Design be the sub-lessee, he also stated Harney County needs to be proactive with these types of situations. Judge Grasty will meet with Dick Baird and Debbie Cronin tomorrow and if they do not then they will be requested to attend next county court meeting on November 23.

→The court discussed working with Lake County to develop an on-site sewage disposal program. This will be a continuing discussion to see if this is a feasible project.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve Ordinance #2009-66 to read it 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. Commissioner Nichols

seconded. Motion carried unanimously. This will be referred back at next county court meeting, November 23, 2009 for the second reading and signature.

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

→The court had a work session to discuss various general topics. No decisions were made.

→The court convened into executive session at 2:55 p.m. to discuss a legal issue. They came out of executive session at 3:45 p.m. with no action taken.

→There being no further business the regular meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk