

# HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

November 5, 2008

The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were Road Supervisor Kerry Landers, Eric Drushella and County Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. Public attending were Bill Anderson of the BLM, Patty Dorroh, Director of the Commission on Children and Families, Brett Jantze, Drug Free Community Project Coordinator, Mark Maliwauki, Business Development Coordinator and Debbie Raney of the Burns Times Herald.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the October 22, 2008 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Judge Grasty commented that an Executive Session would be held at 11:30 a.m. He also noted that a late item up for discussion later would be the changing of the date for the second County Court meeting in November due to the annual Association of Oregon Counties conference being held from November 17 through 21.

The first item of business discussed was an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Lake and Harney Counties for Mental Health services in Lake County. Also discussed was a letter to be sent to Chris Siegner, Director of Harney Behavioral Health, clarifying some conditions of the Agreement. Judge Grasty made a motion to approve the IGA and to send a copy of the letter to the Lake County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty then introduced Eric Drushella, the new County Road Supervisor. Kerry Landers, retiring Road Supervisor, explained that he has agreed to work with Eric 20 hours each week for six months to help him get through a budget cycle. Commissioner Nichols expressed the Court's gratitude to Mr. Landers for helping with the transition.

The Court discussed Title II and Title III funding made available by the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Judge Grasty mentioned that during the October 22 County Court meeting he had suggested asking for a waiver on how the Title II money is spent so that it could go towards bringing a pellet mill to town; he noted that Title II money is designated for forest health and job creation. He then suggested that rather than asking for a waiver, maybe it could be proposed as a Title II project. Discussion continued. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to sign Resolution #2008-17 in the Matter of the 2008 Election for National Forest Related Safety-net Payments, Judge Grasty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Patty Dorroh, Director of HCCCF and Brett Jantze, DFC Coordinator, were present to explain the Drug Free Community program to the Court. Ms. Dorroh also explained the progress that has been made in setting up the program. A lengthy discussion followed.

Judge Grasty asked for regular updates on the program from Ms. Dorroh and Mr. Jantze. It was agreed that they would return in about six months and then every quarter thereafter.

Bill Anderson of the BLM asked to speak to the Court as part of Public Comment. He updated the Court on information he had found regarding acquisition of a new well rig as discussed at the Taylor Grazing Advisory Board meeting held previously.

Following a discussion regarding the County Court meeting schedule for November, it was the consensus of the Court to meet on Monday, November 24 rather than the regular date of Wednesday, November 19. It was also decided to schedule one day per month as a work session to meet with department heads. The first of those work sessions will be held on the afternoon of November 24.

The Court then discussed a request to sign a letter to Governor Kulongoski encouraging him to support the BLM's recently released Western Oregon Plan revision. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the letter, Commissioner Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed the Harney County portions of a 290 page Court Facilities Assessment report. Judge Grasty explained that State Court Chief Justice, Paul Munoz, had commissioned a study of all the Courthouses in the State in regard to security. Judge Grasty recommended appointing a committee to review the entire report as suggested by Chief Justice Munoz. The report stated that "overall, the Harney County Courthouse is ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in the terms of overall rating out of the 48 facilities reviewed for the Oregon Court Facilities Assessment. The total estimated project cost to mitigate the identified deficiencies is approximately \$8,400,000.00."

The Court went into Executive Session at 11:40 a.m. as authorized by ORS 192.660 and adjourned for lunch at 12:00 p.m. They reconvened at 1:05 p.m. still in Executive Session and came out of Executive Session at 1:55 p.m. with no action being taken. There being no further business Court adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

Sharon Johnson  
Secretary, Harney County Court