

**Harney County Court Meeting
December 15, 2010**

→The Harney County Court convened December 15, 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, Brandon McMullen, Planning Director and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Len Vohs, Burns Mayor, Mary Ausmus, Randy Parks, Burns Times Herald, Pete Runnels, Commissioner-Elect, Chris Pratt, Jay Winn, Dale Houck and Dan Bleuler.

→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 minutes of the regular county court meeting on December 1 as well as December 8 special meeting held for the sole purpose of paying bills. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Mary Ausmus inquired about the report regarding the City Burns and the county interest in putting a new tower and why both entities were involved. Judge Grasty informed Ms. Ausmus that is city owned property outside of city limits therefore it is a County Planning decision.

→In the Matter of the Building Inspection Program, the court had a lengthy discussion in regards of the request from Inspections Inc. of a contract guarantee of \$185,000 per year. Jay Winn, Dan Bleuler and Dale Houck were in attendance and expressed their desire to retain Inspections Inc. as the building inspectors. Mr. Winn noted he's happy with their service and believes that if fees do not cover the requested guarantee, the county should subsidize the additional amount. He stated he is concerned the contractors will be left out in the cold. He was assured by the court that their number one goal is to see no interruption in inspection service and to have a program to be the same or better. Judge Grasty noted that he had a meeting with a broad representation of contractors and had a lively discussion with three recommendations- try to negotiate with Inspections Inc., advertise for get Requests for Proposals for this service, and don't pay the guarantee requested. The court reviewed a letter submitted by Sue Ramsay in support of retaining Inspections Inc. and indicating her support of the guarantee contract they are requesting. It was the consensus of the court to advertise for letters of interest along with qualifications.

→The court reviewed a Lease between Harney County and Rimrock Recycling. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the Lease as presented. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→A Notice of Final Decision to Implement Chalk Hills Allotment Management Assessment was reviewed by the court.

→Bid opening of plotter at 11:00 a.m. The following bids were submitted; Bill Burstow \$575, ESD \$1,000, and Darrell Barnes \$595. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to award the bid to the highest bidder ESD \$1,000. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Proposals on the slash burning at Theimer Park were opened at 11:10 a.m. The following proposals were submitted; H Timber Contracting Tony Hauth \$70 acre and Candace Tiller, Moondoggie Water Tender \$166 acre. Judge Grasty and Eric Drushella will review both bids the bid will be awarded at next county court meeting on Jan. 5, 2011.

→Regarding an appointment to Harney County Library Advisory Board, the court reviewed a letter from William D. Burstow applying for the open position. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the appointment of William D. Burstow to the Harney County Library Advisory Board. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, was in attendance to update the court on the On-site Septic Inspections Contract with Lake County. Judge Grasty stated that if the contract is approved he'll have a Resolution creating and maintaining a reserve account in accordance with DEQ requirements for the program for next county court meeting. It was noted that this program will be self-supporting. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign the intergovernmental agreement between Harney County and Lake County. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Judge Grasty updated the court on the Sage-Grouse Plan ODFW Commission meeting where Judge Grasty had testified.

→Jesse Barnes, County Weed Coordinator updated the court on a meeting she had attended in Corvallis.

→Judge Grasty noted the Northeast Transmission line project is out for final review. There will be a Core Team meeting on Jan. 4, 2011 in Burns. (Since postponed)

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign a Bargain and Sale Deed to Margaret Ritches and another to John & Linda Marsden (legal description within the deeds). Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (Buyers will pay for recording fees).

→Judge Grasty noted that he had received a Charter Communication franchise agreement for service outside of Burns and Hines area. He will follow up on this issue, make no

commitments until there is an understanding of what they are trying to do. He will keep the court updated on this issue.

→A Contract for a tower to be sited at the fairgrounds has been received by the County. Legal counsel will review it before any action will be taken.

→There was a general discussion in regards to the state budget, committee appointments and terms, also Judge Grasty mentioned the coming budget hearings and the need to appoint two members to the budget committee. Judge Grasty mentioned that Senator Ferrioli was working on several Legislative concepts which will be helpful to this County and its citizens.

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

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk