

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

February 18, 2009

The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 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 Eric Drushella and County Court Secretary Sharon Johnson. Public attending were Mary Ausmus, Kate Copeland, Nancy Fine 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 February 4, 2009 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Judge Grasty noted that County Court members had attended the Swearing In ceremony of the new Burns BLM District Manager at 9:30 a.m.

Mary Ausmus was present to ask if Harney Behavioral Health had a psychologist on staff. Judge Grasty answered that they do not. He also noted that the need for a psychologist has been discussed among several entities in Harney County and it was determined that there is not a great enough need to fund such a position. Discussion followed. No action was necessary.

Kate Copeland and Nancy Fine, of the Harney Basin Writers Group, were in attendance to request a \$500.00 contribution from the County for the third year of the Eastern Oregon Writer-in-Residence program. They explained that for an eight to nine week period a published author teaches in our schools (in town and rural) and works with homeschoolers. The author provides community workshops and outreach projects for adults and students. Discussion followed. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to contribute \$500.00, Commissioner Nichols seconded. A short discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed an application from Kyle Kaino for an approach/culvert off of Old Experiment Road. County Road Supervisor Eric Drushella recommended approving the application. A short discussion was held regarding the application process. The discussion then turned to the application from Billy and Jana Mort for an approach off of South Newton Road. Judge Grasty made a motion to approve both applications, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Guy McKay, Veterans Service Officer for Harney County was present to inform the Court of a National Guard Appreciation barbeque to be held at the Burns Armory on March 21st. Presentations will begin at 12:00 p.m. sharp followed by the barbeque. Mr. McKay said that there will be approximately 13 individuals deployed from our area. He also noted that donations would be accepted for the purchase of individual flags to be given to the soldiers.

Fuel bids were opened and read aloud at 11 a.m. Bids were received as follows: Ebar Oil: Burns, non-leaded gas - \$1.7451; Diesel - \$1.6899; Furnace - \$1.6629; Diamond Diesel - \$1.7099; Drewsey Diesel - \$1.7399; Andrews Diesel - \$1.7699 and Cardlock \$1.7451. Ed Staub & Sons: Burns, non-leaded gas - \$1.9559; Diesel - \$1.6345; Furnace - \$1.62.95; Diamond Diesel - \$1.6847; Drewsey Diesel – \$1.6847; Andrews Diesel - \$1.7247 and Cardlock \$1.9559. Staub also quoted Clear stove oil at \$1.9725 and dyed stove oil at \$1.9925. Mr. Drushella will review the bids and make a recommendation to the Court.

The next item of business was an Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Oregon, acting by and through its Military Department and Harney County to cover the transfer, installation, operations and maintenance of amateur radio communications equipment from Oregon Emergency Management to the County for use by the County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and/or Radio Amateur Civilian Emergency Services (RACES) group. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to sign the Agreement, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Patty Dorroh, Director of the Harney County Commission on Children and Families, was present to take care of two items of business. The first item discussed was appointments to the Commission. Ms. Dorroh expressed her thanks to Lou Davies who has served for 10 years on the commission and was not seeking reappointment. She then asked for the reappointment of Debbie Ausmus and Jean Hurst to the Commission. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to reappoint Ms. Ausmus and Ms. Hurst, Commissioner Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously. The second item of business was a request for support from the Court on the reapplication for the Drug Free Communities grant. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the 2nd year application for the DFC grant, Commissioner Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously.

A letter was received from Holly Smith indicating her interesting in serving on the Harney County Budget Board for another term. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to appoint Ms. Smith, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court reviewed the Appropriations Project Requests that were submitted to Congressman Walden by Forest Supervisor Doug Gochour. No action was necessary.

A discussion was held regarding setting a Budget Board meeting schedule. April 8, 9, 22, May 13, 27, June 3 and 17 were the dates chosen.

Mr. Drushella returned with totals on the fuel bids. He stated that the Ebar Oil Total Bid was \$268,528.20 and Ed Staub & Sons Total Bid was \$265,802.50. Mr. Drushella recommended accepting the low bid from Ed Staub & Sons. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to accept the bid from Ed Staub & Sons, Judge Grasty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

A memo from Chris Siegner, Harney Behavioral Health Director, notified the Court that members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee are not allowed to serve more than two consecutive three years terms and for that reason Commissioner Nichols could no longer serve on the Committee. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to appoint Commissioner Drinkwater to serve on the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, Judge Grasty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Documents provided by State Representative Cliff Bentz regarding the recently passed Federal Stimulus package and the breakdown for Oregon were reviewed along with documents provided by the Association of Oregon Counties on the stimulus package.

Judge Grasty noted that it was time to start labor negotiations and that he would take care of that. The Court then discussed scheduling for the remainder of February and March.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Johnson
Secretary, Harney County Court