

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

February 3, 2010

→The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 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 County Treasurer Nellie Franklin, Road Supervisor Eric Drushella, Economic Development Coordinator Mark Maliwauki, Senior and Community Services Director Anne Lessar, and Chief Deputy County Clerk Derrin Robinson.

→Public Attending were Burns Mayor, Len Vohs, JR Johnson, Debbie White, Linda Johnson, Bill Wilber, Fred Flippence, Ed Herrera 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 January 20, 2010 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

→Under Public Comment, Ed Herrera was present to share his plans for a renovation of the 4-H show arena grandstands at the fairgrounds. He shared some ideas for funding and engineering, and hopes to have the project completed for fair this September.

→In the Matter of the Veterans Home Opportunity, in researching, the Court has found that the community that gets it has to buy it. The initial investment would be at least \$15 million dollars. The only option would be a bond levy, and the court doesn't feel it would pass. Commissioner Drinkwater reiterated that Harney County Government has never had indebtedness, and he doesn't want to start now. Judge Grasty stated that it would create jobs, but it's a huge investment that the community just can't afford right now, and at this point, because of location, the court doesn't believe that this community would be in the running anyway.

→In the Matter of the 2010 IRS Mileage reimbursement rate, the court reviewed the rate and it has dropped substantially for 2010. Commissioner Drinkwater moved adjust the county mileage reimbursement rate to the IRS rate of .50 cents per mile for those forced to take personal cars, and .47 cents for those who wish to take their own car, for 2010, effective immediately. Commissioner Nichols second, and the motion carried unanimously.

→ Economic Development Coordinator Mark Maliwauki updated the court regarding Facebook's recent selection of Prineville for their multimillion dollar Data Center. Mark explained that the short list was made up of sites in Malheur and Crook counties, and Electrical power was the biggest obstacle. Mark felt that it was significant that a rural community was chosen and not the Portland Metro. Harney County has all tax benefit designations, so there are tools to leverage.

→ Loni Debban, Director, Malheur County Senior and Community Services and Ann Lessar, Director, Harney County Senior and Community Services were present to discuss with the court a Regional Housing Center grant application. Ms. Debban explained that with this community development block grant, three municipalities must agree to cooperate together for the funding. She stated that Malheur County Court has agreed to be the lead applicant and fiscal agent and was asking Harney to be one of the other participants. Total grant amounts would be 60,000 for the first year, and 48,000 the next two years. The amount would be shared between the two counties. A discussion ensued. Ann stated that these funds would help offset costs of programs that they are currently providing. Ms. Debban concurred. Ann explained that this would simply be an additional revenue source for those programs currently in operation. Ms. Debban stated that she will provide an agreement, at a later date. Judge Grasty stated that this would be a good opportunity for the court to sit down with Mrs. Lessar and go over the programs operated from the Senior and Community Services Center, and she agreed to spend a day with the court reviewing their programs and funding streams.

→ Debbie White, and Elizabeth Moore from Training and Employment Consortium and Nancy Alvarado from WorkSource Oregon were present to provide the court with an update of services provided from those agencies in Harney county.

→ Bill Wilber, Fred Flippence and Linda Johnson, representing the Harney County Opportunity Team were present to request a long term agreement for rental fees of the Community Center conference facilities for Economic Development meetings. It was agreed upon inception, that the Economic Development office would be housed in the building at no cost. However, conference room use was not included. Judge Grasty agreed that there should be a long term rental agreement, and wished to address it during the budget process for 2010-2011. All agreed to do so.

→ Judge Grasty shared with the court that there is an initiative petition circulating to repeal the gas tax implemented by HB 2001 in last years' legislative session, so until the outcome is known, none of the HB 2001 transportation revenue will be distributed as expected in 2010. County Road Supervisor Eric Drushella stated that he plans to reprioritize projects for that reason.

- The court reviewed bills the AOC is tracking this special legislative session.
- County Assessor, Ted Tiller discussed his request for appointments to the Farm Board of Review, as per ORS 308A.095. Commissioner Drinkwater moved to appoint reappoint Scott Franklin and Keith Baltzor. Commissioner Nichols second, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Judge Grasty shared with the court reception of a letter from Oregon Dept of Human Services in the matter of closing of the settlement related to contract 119932, with Harney Behavioral Health, and Check #1230 in the amount of 108.92. Judge Grasty wished to have the letter entered into the Commissioner's Journal.
- The court reviewed the findings of no significant impact in the matter of the Trout Creek Allotment Management Plan Environmental Assessment.
- The Court reviewed notices of water use requests; there were no objections to any requests.
- There being no further business, the court adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin Robinson, C.R.A., C.E.A,
Chief Deputy Harney County Clerk