

**HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING  
MAY 20, 2009**

→The Harney County Court convened May 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members present 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 was, Randy Parks, Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the May 6, 2009 court minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed and vouchers paid by court's signature.

→The court recognized the good work that is being done on the county roads' shoulders by the road crew.

→Jesse Barnes, Harney County Weed Coordinator, was in attendance to inform the court that Saturday June 6 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Big R parking lot has been set a "Free Spray Day" where they will be giving away mixed ready herbicide. The mix can be applied to almost any weed in the lawn and driveway. She also said that they will also be participating in the Ag Show at the fairgrounds next week.

→Fred Flippence, representing the Library Foundation was in attendance to update the court and present the statement of the Harney County Library Claire McGill Luce Endowment Fund. As of March 31, 2009 the ending balance is \$1,382,923.99. It was decided that the annual transfer in the amount of \$85,000 will be waived and take it all next year. Mr. Flippence also informed the court that on August 13 they will be having their annual fund raiser with an open house at the Library.

→Nellie Franklin, County Treasurer, suggested that the Weed Department move to one of the county owned buildings at the Industrial Park. At the moment they are renting a shop and this would save on rent.

→The court reviewed an application for an existing approach by Joyce Vaile at 36534 N. Harney Lane for a purpose of adding additional farm home. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2009-07 In the Matter of Extending Workers' Compensation Coverage to Volunteers of Harney County. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between Bureau of Land Management Burns District Office and Harney County concerning cooperating agency status for the North Steens transmission line project environmental impact statement. The line would transmit electric power that would be generated from Echanis' proposed wind farm on the North side of the Steens Mountain. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the MOU between the BLM and Harney County. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Judge Grasty shared with the court a Litigation Summary Report that shows where ONDA has 26 different appeals against the Burns District of the BLM.

→The court had a broad discussion regarding 4R recycling. Mr. Wayne Baron and members of the board will be coming in to discuss this issue later this afternoon. The court expressed concerns regarding the program as the way it's being handled recently. The court felt something has to be done as the county will not subsidize the recycling program and can't let Mr. Baron get further behind on his obligation.

→Wayne Baron, from 4R Recycling, some members of the public and Desiree Taylor from the 4R Board were in attendance to present a business plan as he was requested to provide. Mr. Baron stated that this plan was compiled as to the best they could. The court had a very short time to review this plan however they felt that it needed further work. Mr. Baron also informed the court that they are going to apply for 501C3 non-profit on May 17 turning the LLC into a non-profit. They would also be providing e-recycling and rigid plastic recycling which in their mind will be sustainable. The court requested that the board set up time frame as to when goals will be accomplished and state what they want from the county. The county court made it clear that they will not invest any more funds towards this business. Judge Grasty requested that the 4R board meet with DEQ and also C&B to discuss all issues. Karen Dinsmore from C&B told Mr. Baron that they are not their foe and are not out to put him out of business, despite what is believed that they are. She told him that they do have information if they want to use it. The county court told Mr. Baron and the board that from now on all current monthly payments (rent, tax and bailer count with payment) to the county are to be paid or else a 30 day eviction notice will be issued. After the 501C3 is formed they are to pay back payments due. Desiree Taylor requested that they re-negotiate the bailing charge. If necessary this issue will be discussed at a later date when they become non-profit.

→Linda Neal was present to inform the court that OPB is doing a segment on the "Oregon Experience" show on Mary Dodge former resident of Harney County. Also that Ms. Dodge was involved with the Portland Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Neal is anxious to work collaboratively with others and bring the Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra here to coincide with the OPB showing of Mary Dodge's story. The court was very supportive of this venture.

→The court convened into executive session at 3:10 p.m. as authorized by ORS 192.660(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to

negotiate real property transactions. They re-convened into regular session at 3:25 p.m.  
No action taken.

→The court agreed that Judge Grasty could pursue a grant for new heating system for the courthouse. Judge Grasty stated that he will be attending a meeting with Idaho Power in Ontario tomorrow.

→The court reviewed public notice of water use requests from Oregon Water Resources Department. There were no objections expressed by the court to any of the requests.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC  
Harney County Clerk