

**Harney County Court Meeting
May 5, 2010**

→The Harney County Court convened May 5, 2010 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, Brandon McMullen, Planning Director and County Clerk Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Charlie Otley, Len Vohs, Mandi Weeks, legal aid representative from Ontario, Oregon, Linda Johnson, Kim Tiller, Hilda Allison and Debbie Raney from Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed by the court and vouchers' approved by court signature.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the April 21 county court minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Mandi Weeks, from legal aid in Ontario informed the court that their services are for low income individuals to assess legal services in the community. She said they do not have many clients from this area and will leave poster and flyers to get the word out in the community.

→Charlie Otley, was present to inform the court that he received a call from Susan Hammond, informing him that she had received an e-mail regarding the Antiquity Act whereby ONDA can take land for protection with no local input or even go through Congress and if that is the case Mr. Otley stated it should be taken very seriously and was very scared they can just take private property. The court will follow up on this issue.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adopt and read by title only Ordinance #2010-67, the Harney County Zoning Ordinance, including two corrections, for the second time (first time was read at the April 21 County Court meeting). Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Pursuant to Oregon Statute an Ordinance must be approved at two separate meetings unless declared an emergency.

→Jerry Hensley, District Ranger of the Emigrant Creek Ranger District, was in attendance to discuss Title II projects. The court rated four projects as high priorities. Judge Grasty made a motion that Harney County Court has rated the four projects as high in priority in the following order, Malheur Long Term Stewardship Contract HA-MAL11-003, Harney County Forest Opportunity HA-MAL11-266, Ant Aspen Restoration HA-MAL11-267 and Small Tree Thinning HA-MAL11-268 and authorize Judge Steven E. Grasty to sign the concurrence. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Clarification followed. Motion carried unanimously.

→There will be a Core Team Meeting in regards to North Steens Wind/Transmission EIS today which the county court will be attending later on this afternoon.

→Judge Grasty stated that CRT will be meeting tonight and will ask them to meet in his office to go over the list of candidates for Economic Development Coordinator. Interviews will be next week. Judge Grasty also would like them to take some strategy role in regards to ONDA and EFSC hearing. Judge Grasty reported on the EFSC hearing held recently in The Dalles where the Harney County Court and other residents participated. Petition 1 filed by ONDA was denied this was in regards to designation of “single facility” for conditional use permits for renewable energy facilities. The EFSC (Energy Facility Siting Council) has agreed to hold a hearing in Burns on June 11 to hear Petition 2 which asks the EFSC to place an additional layer of protections on Steens Mt. Cooperative Management. The court had a lengthy discussion as to strategy and location to hold this important meeting. The court encourages as many residents as possible attend and testify.

→Road department Pickup bid opening was held at 11:00 a.m. Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor informed the court that one bid was submitted after the deadline of 5:00 p.m., Tuesday. The bid from Teague Motor Company for a 2010 pickup is \$24,232 allowing \$4,500 for trade-in. Total cost of \$19,732 with trade- in. Eric Drushella reviewed the bid and recommended to accept the only qualified bid from Teague Motor Co. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to accept the bid from Teague Motor Company as recommended. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Dan Jordan, Insurance Agent of record was in attendance with an update on property and auto liability claims summary. He stated that auto liability claims have increased the past two years. It was the consensus of the court to bump up focus on safety instructions with employees. Mr. Jordan will bring information regarding workman’s comp. and buildings portion at a later date.

→Judge Grasty noted a letter received from CIS regarding financing change in which they will begin to partially self-insure the medical plans offered through Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon.

→Public notice of water use requests from Oregon Water Resources Department were reviewed by the court. No objections expressed to any of the requests.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk

