

**Harney County Court Meeting
July 21, 2010**

- The Harney County Court convened July 21, 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, County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga and Nellie Franklin, Treasurer.
- Public attending were, Lauren Brown, Burns Times Herald, Mary Ausmus, Hilda Allison and Linda Johnson
- Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Financial and statistical reports were reviewed and vouchers paid by court's signature.
- Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the July 7 county court minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Mary Ausmus thanked the court for the new sidewalk on the South and front of the Courthouse.
- The court discussed Indirect Cost Allocation Plan, of which the purpose is to summarize, in writing, the methods and procedures that Harney County will use to allocate costs to various programs, grants, contracts and agreements. This document focus mainly on Public and Behavioral Health however is for all departments. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign the Indirect Cost Allocation Plan as presented. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- A letter from Wayne Baron requesting the court consider forgiving the debt that is owed by 4R Recycling, and returning the \$5,000 cleaning deposit, was reviewed by the court. Mr. Baron stated in his letter it was cleaned up. After discussion it was the consensus of the court to put a complete package together so the court can exactly determine the actual numbers in order to make a determination at next county court meeting.
- The court had a discussion regarding the proposed creation of the Eastern Oregon Regional Organization. Judge Grasty stated that one of the group's main focuses will be to work on the sage grouse strategy. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the IGA among Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties. Judge Grasty seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- The cost report of operating landfills was discussed briefly however since Eric Drushella, Road supervisor was not in attendance to explain it was tabled until next county court meeting.

→The court briefly discussed the request from an individual to purchase the old Crane Landfill it was the consensus of the court to proceed with the process of advertising and holding a public auction. District Attorney Tim Colahan will be asked to prepare all legal documents to bring it up for sale. Judge Grasty will confer with DEQ regarding language on deed restrictions.

→Due to date conflict with one of the Commissioners the court changed the next county court meeting date from August 4 to August 3, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign a Bargain & Sale deed from Harney County to Roaring Springs Ranch, Inc. Acct. #20434 for a consideration of \$15,000. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court reviewed two applications submitted for Harney County Planning Commission members as two positions, of the seven member commission, have expired. Judge Grasty made a motion to re-appoint Wayne Evans and appoint Stacy Davies. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve and sign the Certificate of Appropriations of funds in Support of Oregon State University Extension Service with the appropriation of \$113,000 for the fiscal year of 2010-2011. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Ted Tiller, Harney County Assessor, was in attendance to explain the Forest Patrol (Fire Suppression) Assessment. He stated that he does not set the Fire Patrol assessment, the state does and he collects for the Department of Forestry where all the collected funds are sent.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to appoint Randy Fulton, Harney County Economic Development Coordinator as Enterprise Zone Manager replacing Mark Maliwaukie. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Judge Grasty informed the court that he had been approached by two employees in regards to working part time and receiving part time benefits. The court had a discussion regarding this issue. The consensus of the court was to have Judge Grasty look further into this issue and it will be discussed at next county court meeting.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign Agreement No. 26452, Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act of 2009 Local Agency Agreement for Fund Distribution Double O and Narrows-Princeton & East Steens Rd. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court acknowledged the requests for funds as budgeted from Harney County Opportunity Team for the amount of \$5,000 and another from The High Desert Partnership for \$20,000 however this funding is not from Title II as the request states it is from General Fund economic development line item.

→The court briefly discussed the DEIS for North Steens Transmission Line. The court will weigh in and make sure that comment period is not extended beyond the required period. They also agreed there should be a very public process on the sage grouse strategy.

→Judge Grasty informed the court that there is little funding for the local Veterans Service Officers and was requesting the county consider helping with the program by funding that position full time. This position would not be a county employee. In the meantime, they would work hard with the State Legislature and the Federal government to fund the position. Judge Grasty stated that there are more service needs and requests as ever and this program needs help. It was the consensus of the court that Judge Grasty provide numbers for next county court meeting to see how we can help.

→Judge Grasty provided a list of available county owned properties. There are a number of tiny lots and will be looking into private sales as allowed by law.

→Sue Licht, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Project Manager on the Round Barn and Frenchglen Hotel repair and restoration projects, Dennis Bradley, Park Manager and Curtis Smith from Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. were in attendance with a presentation on the progress of the two projects. It was stated that the Round Barn has new roof and will be working on the Frenchglen Hotel. Judge Grasty requested that local contractors be involved in this project. Ms. Licht stated that she would be willing to do so if preservation professionals could be found locally. She stated that this profession is lacking workers as it is a very specialized field but they do have means for training if any locals would be interested.

→The court reviewed a letter from twenty-nine members of the U.S. Senate from both parties urging the Obama administration to renew county payments (Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self-Determination Act of 2000) which provided six years of funding. The letter sent urges the President to include reauthorization in the 2012 budget.

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

→In accordance with ORS 192.660(d) the court convened into executive session at 2:25 p.m. to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations. The court re-convened into regular session at 2:45 p.m. no action taken.

→There being no further business the county court meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC

Harney County Clerk