

**HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2009**

→The Harney County Court convened September 16, 2009 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, Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Mary Ausmus, Vern Brown and Debbie Raney from the Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the September 2 minutes with one typographical error correction. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→LaDene Hurd and Cheryl Keniston, were in attendance to inform the court that CIS will be providing health screening on October 5, 2009 for cities and county employees. Ms. Keniston also informed the court that flu shots will also be administered by the Health Department at the same time.

→Mary Ausmus was in attendance to express concern regarding newspaper quotes from Ms. Christensen of the DEQ in regards to the dump site fire. Judge Grasty stated that she may have used the wrong choice of words however he was very pleased they immediately came over to deal with the situation.

→There was a lengthy discussion regarding the possible Penland Road extension. Sheriff Glerup stated he fears that by not legalizing the extension in question it might create legal problems down the road. The court agreed that since documentation can not be found as being a county road there is no legal basis to continue the legalizing procedure extending Penland Rd. to the East at the corner of Sections 14,15,22 and 23 of Twp. 35S R33E WM to the intersecting Wild Horse Road. It was the consensus of the court to do more research to this specific road and also work on identifying a process to work through all county road records so it is a usable data base.

→Patty Dorroh, Director of the Harney County Commission on Children and Families, was in attendance requesting contracts with ESD, CASA, Kids Club of Harney County and T.E.C. as providers, Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Oregon for Medicaid and initial budget distribution and initial budget requests be signed. The court agreed to table this until the court has time to review the documents.

→An application by Mark Khan for the release of mineral rights on his property was reviewed. The court will set a hearing date which will be determined by the requirements of advertising guidelines however it will not be sooner than October 7 as there is different process to follow.

→The court discussed a procedure to insure that all windows are closed and locked at the end of each day. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to direct department heads to develop procedure for security of their offices and insure that all windows are closed at the end of each day. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court discussed Resolution # 2009-18 In the Matter of Approving the Amended Harney County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve Resolution #2009-18. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The Local Government Personnel Institute (LGPI) wage study which was completed recently was discussed by the court. It was the consensus of the court to look at all positions, set a meeting with department heads to discuss and receive input from them, on Wednesday, September 23 at 1:00 p.m. and make recommendations at next county court meeting.

→The court along with Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor, discussed a grader sale and trade. They had a conference call with Jim Brennan of Western States Equipment in regards to the allowance of the trade in value of a John Deere 770BH grader which was offered on trade in. It was agreed to take \$50,000 on the trade in.

→The possibility of OYA youth working outside of the facility was briefly mentioned. The court set a public hearing for Sept. 30, 4-8 p.m. at the Senior Center to take input from citizens regarding this issue. Recommendation on this issue will be made to the court for their decision.

→The court discussed medical insurance coverage. Judge Grasty stated that a decision has to be made as to what plan will be offered since CIS will have to be informed if we are to go to a high deductible plan. After a lengthy discussion which included some employees, Judge Grasty made a motion to change coverage to a high deductible Blue Cross plan and provide the employee a Health Savings Account (HSA) beginning 1/1/2010. Discussion followed. Judge Grasty will run different scenarios on monies for the county's contribution toward the HSA for the next county court. Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty stated that details on amount to be deposited for the employees, financial institution principles and the financial institution will be chosen by early December, also how the Medicare eligible employee's issues will be addressed. It was decided that written determination of policies will be compiled and distributed. Each employee will be given a check list to make them aware of what they need to deal with regarding the high deductible insurance and the HSAs.

→There was no action taken in regards of county proclamation of “Day of Culture”.

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

→The court convened into executive session at 3:00 p.m. as authorized by ORS 192.660(d) and (e) to conduct deliberations on labor negotiations and real property transactions. The court convened into regular session at 3:15 p.m. No action taken.

→After reviewing all the documents submitted by Patty Dorroh for the court’s signature Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the contract with the following providers, ESD, CASA, Kids Club of Harney County and T.E.C. (Training and Employment Consortium). Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the IGA between Harney County and the State of Oregon for Medicaid agreement HAR0911-MAC. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the Harney County budget distribution and initial budget fund requests fund for Commission funding distributions. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk