

## HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

September 2, 2009

The Harney County Court convened on September 2, 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 Court Secretary, Sharon Johnson.

Public attending were Burns Mayor Len Vohs, Rod Curtis of Wildlife Services and Randy Parks from the Burns Times Herald. Attending part of the meeting was Susan Christensen of the Department of Environmental Quality, Bend Office.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the August 19 minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Judge Grasty noted that a representative from DEQ would be present to discuss the fire at C&B Sanitary that started on Tuesday. Mayor Vohs stated that the City has had an ongoing investigation about it since it happened.

Judge Grasty added a discussion regarding the County owned industrial buildings to the agenda.

County Road Supervisor Eric Drushella reported to the Court on his investigation of the Penland Road continuation possibility. Discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to table the issue until the next County Court meeting and to have legal council draft a motion for consideration, Commissioner Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously.

The Court discussed ways to create a database that could be tied to GIS maps that would make it easier to find road records.

The Court met with David Williams, State Wildlife Services Director, by phone to discuss the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Work/Budget Plan to continue the cooperatively funded wildlife damage management program in Harney County. Judge Grasty told Mr. Williams that the Court has questions about two notations on the Budget. Mr. Williams explained the meaning of those notations. A lengthy discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the Cooperative Service Agreement between Harney County and USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services and the 2009/2010 Work/Budget Plan, Commissioner Drinkwater seconded, motion carried unanimously. Judge Grasty suggested having Mr. Williams appear in person before the Budget Board next year.

Susan Christensen, DEQ, was present to discuss the fire that started at C&B Sanitary on Tuesday, September 1st. She informed the Court that C&B is following their operations plan and permit requirements to try to put the fire out and that C&B had called DEQ as soon as they knew there was a fire. She said that they don't know how the fire started and will probably never know. Ms. Christensen also said that it has been about three years since C&B had a fire and that fires in landfills are not an unusual occurrence. She said that they are doing exactly what they should be doing operationally; landfill fires are very difficult to put out.

The next item of business was Resolution #2009-08 Amended, in the Matter of Creating a Dedicated Closure and Post-Closure Fund for Harney County Rural Landfills. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign Amended Resolution #2009-08, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty began a discussion relative to having an opportunity help a small business start up due to the departure of Monaco. He then suggested making an Industrial Building available for this business. Discussion followed. Commissioner Nichols said that he would like to have a discussion with the current occupants before making a decision and that he would do that soon.

The Court spent a few minutes comparing calendars.

Judge Grasty gave Court members copies of the LGPI Salary Survey and explained how the survey was conducted. He said there were some suggested wage increases that couldn't be implemented until the next budget cycle but suggested doing some workshops between now and then. The survey shows that the County is as much as 24% high on pay for some positions and as much as 30% low on others. Commissioner Nichols noted that there are many more on the low side than on the high side. Discussion followed.

The Court recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:55 p.m.; there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

Sharon Johnson  
Secretary, Harney County Court