

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

January 7, 2009

→The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were Eric Drushella, County Road Supervisor, and Chief Deputy County Clerk Derrin Robinson.

→Public attending were, Fred Flippence, Barbara Cannady, Jim Schultz and Debbie Raney of the Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the December 17, 2008 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

→Judge Grasty shared with the court a draft of Resolution 2009-01 In the Matter of Requesting that The Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission Exempt the Echanis Wind Project From Property Taxation under the Strategic Investment Program, for which a public hearing is to be held on January 21, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

→The Court along with County Road Supervisor Eric Drushella, discussed the topic of County road right-of-way width. Judge Grasty provided a copy of County Court Order In the Matter of the Width of Highways, recorded October 7, 1920, in Commissioner's Journal D, Page 517, stating that all right-of-ways in the future be 80 feet in width. The Court wanted to recognize that the order is still in full force and effect, and will continue to be the basis.

→Judge Grasty stated that he wants to work to get the road record history updated, and hopes to accomplish it in 2009.

→Fred Flippence representing the Library Foundation Board, was present to give their annual report. Mr. Flippence explained the financial status of the foundation funds, and the loss in value over the past year. He shared some of the projects that the foundation has been working on, such as some equipment purchases, and updating the quality of the inventory and their annual fundraiser. He expressed how impressed the board is with Sheryl Hancock, the new Library Director. They felt she is doing an outstanding job.

→John Oshel and Mac Alliason from Association of Oregon Counties, updated the court on the possibilities, if there is in fact a stimulus package from the Obama Administration. Mr. Oshel explained that this will be an opportunity, for county road funds, but with strings attached. He explained that the funding will be for job creation, so any paving projects, will have to be contracted out. He asked the Court to provide AOC with a

Prioritized list of projects, as the funding provided to the counties will be by a formula from the Association of Oregon Counties. Mr. Drushella, County Road Supervisor will prepare a list of projects for when and if funding becomes available.

➔The Court made annual Official Appointments as follows:

➔In The Matter of the Appointment of Justices of the Peace Pro-Tempore for 2009, Commissioner Drinkwater moved to Appoint Sandra Richards and Stephen Finlayson for 2009. Commissioner Nichols second, the motion carried unanimously.

➔In The Matter of Designating an Official News paper for the Publication of County Matters, Commissioner Drinkwater moved to designate The Burns Times Herald. Commissioner Nichols second, the motion carried unanimously.

➔In the Matter of Appointing a County Budget Officer for 2009, Commissioner Drinkwater moved to Appoint Judge Steven E. Grasty, Commissioner Nichols second, the motion carried unanimously.

➔In the Matter of Appointing a Medical Investigator for 2009, Commissioner Nichols moved to Appoint Dr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, Commissioner Drinkwater second, the motion carried unanimously.

➔In the Matter of Appointing a County Health Officer for 2009, Commissioner Nichols moved to Appoint Dr. Holland Haynie, Commissioner Drinkwater second, the motion carried unanimously.

➔The Court discussed the facilities summary report commissioned by the Joint Interim Committee On Court Facilities. The report is exempt from public disclosure under ORS 192.501 as it and discusses weaknesses relating to security in court facilities across the state. The report requests that a local committee form to review the report, and make recommendations regarding improvements, and possible funding sources. Commissioner Nichols volunteered to chair the committee, and will coordinate with Circuit and Justice Courts.

➔In the Matter of the County's representative on the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation Board of Directors, Commissioner Drinkwater agreed to continue as that representative for 2009.

➔The court reviewed the Library Advisory Board By-Laws, as revised by the Advisory board on August 25, 2008. Commissioner Drinkwater moved to approve and ratify Library Board By-Laws as presented. Judge Grasty second, and the motion carried unanimously.

➔The court discussed the 2009 IRS mileage rate. The 2009 IRS rate is .55 cents The county will reimburse mileage at the IRS rate for 2009 when personal vehicles are required to be used. There is a standing County Court Resolution to that effect.

➔The court reviewed the proposed Contract with ASI for information technology services for Harney County. Commissioner Drinkwater moved to approve the contract. Commissioner Nichols second, the motion carried unanimously.

➔The court reviewed the Environmental Assessment, the Finding of No Significant Impact, and Proposed Decision, regarding the West Wagontire Allotment Tired Horse Butte Fence project. There was no action taken by the court.

➔The court reviewed Notices of Water Use Requests; there were no objection to any of the requests.

➔At 1:10 p.m., the court opened the public hearing on Land Use file #08-58, In the Matter of Updating the Harney County Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision and Partitioning Ordinance. Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, and Stan Foster with Public Affairs Research Consultants, reviewed proposed updates to the ordinances. The public hearing is to be continued at 9:00 a.m. on January 21, 2009.

➔There being no further business, the court adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrin Robinson, C.R.A., C.E.A,
Deputy Harney County Clerk