

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

December 17, 2008

The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 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 Road Supervisors Kerry Landers and Eric Drushella, Patty Dorroh, Director of the Commission on Children and Families, Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, County Clerk Maria Iturriaga and Chief Deputy County Clerk Derrin Robinson.

Public attending were, Peggy Ausmus, Pam Mather, Hines City Administrator, Bill Guindon, Interim Burns City Manager, Sam Kaser Linda Johnson, 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 3, 2008 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

County Clerk Maria Iturriaga reminded the court of the quarterly public disclosure statement required of Public Officials due to The Oregon Ethics Commission by January 15, 2009.

Bill Guindon, Interim Burns City Manager was present to request funding assistance to complete a traffic impact study on Monroe Ave., which is required to complete a possible re-zone. Mr. Guindon explained that it ties together with the Monroe intersection project. He stated that the cost for the study is about \$9000.00, and was requesting \$8000.00 from the Southeast Regional Alliance fund that Harney County has authority over. A discussion ensued regarding pieces of the entire project. Judge Grasty felt that this request was not unreasonable, due to the size of the entire project, however, the Governor's office is working on finding alternative funding sources as well, and would rather use those first if they do become available. Judge Grasty made a motion to contribute \$8000.00 from the Southeast Regional Alliance funds if it is necessary. Commissioner Nichols second, and the motion carried unanimously.

Patty Dorroh, Director of the Commission on Children and Families presented the contract with Harney County School District #3 for the Drug Free Communities program. Mrs. Dorroh explained that the contract is for reimbursements to District 3 for costs incurred, up to \$10,000. They are providing match as well.

Commissioner Drinkwater moved to approve the contract with Harney County School District # 3, Commissioner Nichols second, and the Motion carried unanimously.

In the Matter of Resolution 2008-19, Authorizing Harney County to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Harney County and Harney County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), Vernon Estes and Thomas Sharp with the radio operators were present and discussed the equipment purchases by the state. They don't expect the county to have any expense. After discussion, Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve Resolution 2008-19, Commissioner Nichols second, and the motion carried unanimously.

Jesse Barnes, Weed Coordinator was present to discuss the African Rue situation. She stated that the Dept. of Agriculture and other cooperating partners have put together research plots to determine what will be best to use, when should it be applied. The Oregon Dept of Agriculture representatives have said it may be ¼ million dollars clean up, and the focus of the state Dept. of Agriculture to deal with. All land owners that have it are involved and willing to participate to eliminate the issue. Mrs. Barnes presented the preliminary action plan. The court requested a quarterly update on progress.

Resolution 2008-20 In the Matter of Appropriating Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition, from VOCA Fund 249, to General Fund 101, in the amount of \$79279.12 was explained by Judge Grasty. He stated that these are funds received at the county during the last several years. The resolution will transfer the funds to the County General Fund. Commissioner Drinkwater moved to sign Resolution 2008-20, Commissioner Nichols second, and the motion carried unanimously.

The court reviewed the recommendation by Chris Siegner, Director, Harney Behavioral Health, of the appointment of Angie Witzel to the HBH advisory committee. Commissioner Nichols moved to Appoint Angie Witzel, Judge Grasty second, and the motion carried unanimously.

The court reviewed the recent City County Insurance Services Audit report. Judge Grasty expressed his gratitude to LaDene Hurd, Finance and Human Resources Administrator, for an outstanding job, as the County continues to have a credit with CIS. Mrs. Hurd discussed the codes used specific to workman's compensation that estimate the insurance costs.

The court reviewed a request for support from Burns Paiute Tribe regarding thier request for acquisition of excess government property. Judge Grasty explained that there are many interests in the property. After much discussion, the court was sympathetic, however, chose not to intervene or grant letters of support to any of the interested parties, as the property is not located in Harney County.

The court reviewed notices of water use requests. There were no objections to any of the requests.

At 1:00 The court Held a Public Hearing on Land Use File #08-50, In the Matter of updating the Coordinated Population Forecast for Harney County, attending were Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, and Brent Lake, County Planning Consultant, and Burns Public Works Director, Dave Cullens. Under state law the County is required to create a coordinated population forecast as part of the Comprehensive Plan. It requires court ratification of the city population forecasts. Mr. McMullen presented a Draft Ordinance amending the Harney County Comprehensive Plan (Ordinance No. 7) Updating Chapter 2.6.4(3), Population Projections, and chapter 7.12 Population and Housing Projections, that implements the forecasts. Commissioner Nichols wished to make amendments to the proposed ordinance regarding referrals to the Rangeland Reform Act. The court will review further and take action later in the day.

At 1:30, the Court met with Wayne Baron, for a 4R recycling update. Mr. Baron presented the Court with a forecasted business plan. He proposed suspending the rent at the county facility for 6 months, but not property tax. Judge Grasty spoke of the possibility of deferring rent rather than forgoing it. A discussion ensued. Judge Grasty moved to accept Mr. Baron's proposal to defer the rent, not the taxes from Nov 2008 thru April 2009, review the financials at the end of April 2009, to decide on back payment of rent. Commissioner Drinkwater second. A lengthy discussion continued. Commissioner Nichols felt that ultimately the county will be deciding if we want to be subsidizing recycling. It's the question that will have to be asked. It is subsidizing a business that makes sense, but is economically unfeasible. He reiterated that it is not a reflection on the business person, just the type of business as a whole. Commissioner Nichols has concerns regarding the industrial buildings in general and the costs associated with them, and realizes that something will have to be done there eventually. Judge Grasty stated that the industrial buildings come with an expense. The county court would prefer to sell those buildings, as there are costs incurred to them sitting empty as well. Judge Grasty called for the vote on the motion on the table, and the motion carried unanimously.

The court revisited Ordinance 2008-64, Amending the Harney County Comprehensive Plan (Ordinance No. 7) Updating Chapter 2.6.4(3), Population Projections, and chapter 7.12 Population and Housing Projections. Judge Grasty explained the procedure for passage of an ordinance, having to be read and approved by Title only twice. Commissioner Nichols moved to read the proposed Ordinance 2008-64 by title only and approve. Commissioner Drinkwater second. Judge Grasty read proposed Ordinance 2008-64 by title only, and called for the vote, and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Drinkwater moved to read the second time, the proposed Ordinance 2008-64 by title only and approve. Commissioner Nichols second. Judge Grasty read proposed Ordinance 2008-64

again by title only, called for the vote, and the motion carried unanimously, Approving Ordinance 2008-64.

The court recessed to hold a work session with community groups to discuss community projects. (Lists of those present and proposed projects are included as an attachment.)

There being no further business, the Court adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

County Project Brainstorming Meeting

December 17, 2008

Attending: Bill Guindon, Teresa Schrunk, Denny Mills, Rod Bennett, Scott Smyth, Marty Suter, Pat Sharp, Patty McNeil, Debbie Raney, Jessica Boone, Ruth Schultz, Len Vohs, Jim Bishop and Dave Courtney.

Judge Grasty explained that Representative Bentz had called him and suggested that there may be an economic stimulus package put together after the first of the year at both federal and state levels. The money will go to counties with projects that are ready to go, would create jobs, would sustain jobs or would not require a constant infusion of new dollars.

Ideas presented were:

Jack Drinkwater, County – pellet mill for Courthouse and schools.

Denny Mills, ESD – wireless to Diamond, Frenchglen, Drewsey, Pine Creek, Double O and Suntex. With new technology could supply high speed internet access to 95% of the people in the County.

Bill Guindon, City of Burns – street repairs, water supply for airport protection, city hall backup generator and right-of-way work on the Monroe Intersection project.

Teresa Schrunk, Park & Rec – covered swimming pool.

Dave Courtney, School District #3 – pellet boilers at Slater, Lincoln and Courthouse.

Jim Bishop, Hospital – expand surgery department (orthopedic), remodel of the Racine Building to house VA Clinic.

Rod Bennett, ESD – Archive Center.

Marty Suter, SWCD – alternative energy and community supported agriculture (small diameter sawmill). Mobile mills.

Pat Sharp, Crane School Superintendent – Complete the Elementary School gym; building on new track to house concessions, bathrooms and announcers booth; mechanics shop equipment; green energy for heating systems (solar or geo-thermal) and dorm remodel.

Patty McNeil, Chamber of Commerce – Call center, solar power, pellet mill.

Jessica Boone, Chamber of Commerce – 4R Recycling retention and expansion (curb side recycling), hiring additional employees for current businesses, creation of bottled water company.

Ruth Schultz, City of Hines – supports pellet mill (Hines has no projects ready currently).

Len Vohs, Burns Mayor Elect – partnering with Hines and County on projects which will add and sustain jobs.

Dan Nichols, County – biomass utilization, alternative power at the industrial site.

Steve Grasty, County – preserve LP facility, heating issue at Monaco to sustain jobs and maintain BLM and FS locally.