

**HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**

→The Harney County Court convened September 17, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members present were, Judge Steven Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were, Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor and Maria Iturriaga, County Clerk.

→Also attending were, Mary Ausmus, Ron Wulff and Lauren Brown from the Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the September 3 minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed and voucher's paid by court's signature.

→Chris Gregg, Weed Coordinator, was in attendance to inform the court of the problem and methods that will be utilized to combat the African Rue, a noxious weed, which has been discovered in Harney County. The court asked him to make sure it is listed on the noxious weeds "A" list.

→Ron Wulff, President of Boys & Girls Club advisory board, presented an overview and current statistics of the club. He stated that the board has come across budgeting issues and the current financial status shows an inability to make the club's monthly expenses. He requested financial help in the amount of \$8,600 to get them through the next 4 weeks. He told the court that getting the club through 1 month operating expenses would be a significant contribution to getting the club back on its feet. He also told the court that the board has taken significant steps to minimize operating expenses yet still maintain the club as a safe environment for the kids. Mary Ausmus, expressed concerns about the Prevention Grant and the costs to taxpayers. Judge Grasty stated that Harney County supports youth and contribute many dollars towards many youth programs. Commissioner Nichols stated that the Boys & Girls Club board be applauded for what they're doing however he feels that more contribution from the county is not fair to other programs. Mr. Wulff was asked to come back after the lunch break and discuss this further.

→LaDene Hurd and Cheryl Keniston, Health Dept. Director, were present to discuss providing flu shots and health screening for employees. After discussion it was the consensus of the court that individuals will pay \$25 per flu shot and in turn they can bill their insurance. Mrs. Hurd stated that she will try to get a grant from CIS for the health screening.

→Linda Simmons from TVCC was not able to attend the county court meeting this morning however will attend the next meeting October 8. Karen Hendrickson and George Wynn from Harney County TVCC Advisory Committee were in attendance, due

to Ms. Simmons absence, made some remarks. They said the COD budget for 2008-2009 reflects \$8,000 Cash match from Harney County. The court informed them that this expense will have to go through the next budget process. The court feels that this is an Economic Development issue and is vital to our community. The signing of the Contract Out of District Service Delivery Agreement was tabled until next county court meeting.

→Brandon McMullen, Planning Director and Brent Lake, Consultant, were in attendance to update the court on the wind facilities siting. They reported that two projects, East and West Ridge have been tentatively approved. The final hearing for approval of the written decision will be October 15. The Echanis wind project has already been approved settled and ready to go.

→The court received a check from Rimrock Recycling in the amount of \$10,099.85 which are the financial assets of this corporation, as it was dissolved as of May 31, 2008.

→The court convened into executive session at 11:35 a.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660 (h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. The court re-convened into regular session. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to have county counsel, Ron Yockim, send the application for Reservation of Water for Economic Development. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court discussed the topic of the Old Drewsey Jail which still exists and been used as a storage shed. Judge Grasty informed the court that a Drewsey community member would like to restore this historic building. It was the consensus of the court that something will be worked out as this is very interesting and deserves some attention.

→Judge Grasty made a motion to appoint Len Vohs and Patricia Howes to the Harney Malheur Community Action Agency advisory board. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Brandon McMullen and Brent Lake returned to the meeting to continue their informational update on the wind facilities. No action taken.

→Ron Wulff, returned to the meeting as requested by the court to get the response from the court regarding the request he had made earlier this morning from the Boys & Girls Club Board for financial help. Mr. Wulff stated he had met with another group and they have committed funds towards the Club and now was looking for some assurance that the county will contribute if necessary. He stated that he is sensitive to the county's position as to not set precedence with others coming requesting funds. There was no action taken today however the court will take this issue under advisement.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to accept a letter from Columbia Care Services, Inc. to operate secure transportation services within Harney County. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor, said that the Penland Road report is complete and will be presented at the next county court meeting on Oct. 8.

→The court had discussion regarding the drug court. Judge Grasty expressed concerns regarding adding another county employee. There will be more discussion later on the afternoon. Other general discussion ensued. No action taken.

→Commissioner Nichols informed the court that the Oregon Division of State Lands meeting is scheduled in Bend, grazing fee increases will be a subject for this meeting.

→The court reviewed the Solid Waste Disposal Site Closure Permit #318 Sod House Landfill signed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality effective September 11, 2008.

→Sheriff David Glerup, Tim Colahan, District Attorney, Chris Siegner, Harney Behavioral Health Director, Cheryl Foster, Circuit Court and Tammy Wheeler, Circuit Court Administrator were present to discuss the drug court issue which was briefly discussed earlier. The committee has looked at options however they feel that hiring a county employee would be most beneficial to all involved. Discussion followed regarding the benefits of this program and how it would be funded through jail assessment fees and forfeitures. All attending felt that the program can be sustained with current funding streams. Mrs. Wheeler stated that Harney County is one of the last counties to implement drug court. There was a question as to knowing how and if the program was working. Mrs. Wheeler said there will be statistical analysis and will keep track of every success and unsuccessful cases. It was the consensus of the court to go ahead and fill the position of a drug court coordinator.

→Maria Iturriaga, County Clerk, informed the court that they had just received an e-mail from John Lindback, State Elections Director, stating that because Mr. Len Vohs, a candidate for Burns Mayor, withdrew from the race without filing the proper form (SEL 150) with the City of Burns, his name must appear on the ballot therefore ballots for Burns need to be reprinted. According to statute the city of Burns will have to pay all costs associated with that re-printing.

→Brandon McMullen, Planning Director and Stan Foster, Public Affairs Research Consultant, were present to give an overview of what will they be doing tonight at the work session regarding the technical assistance grant monies from the Department of Land Conservation and Development which provides funding for updating the Harney County Land Use Ordinance. No decisions will be made at the work session regarding the proposed changes to the documents.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC

Harney County Clerk