

**Harney County Court Meeting
October 8, 2008**

→The Harney County Court convened October 8, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steve Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were Kerry Landers, Road Supervisor and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Sam Kaser and Randy Parks, Burns Times Herald.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the September 17 county court minutes as mailed. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

→Judge Grasty reminded the court of the AOC annual meeting in Eugene.

→Maria Iturriaga, Clerk, reminded the court to send in the quarterly public official disclosure report to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission which is due October 15. All members had already done so.

→Judge Grasty updated the court on the recent Association of Oregon Counties District #2 meeting held in Lakeview two weeks ago. He reported on topics discussed which included ethics, Forest Health and management. He also reiterated a 4 year extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act which was part of the bailout bill passed and was signed by the President. Judge Grasty stated that his best estimate payment will be 90% of the payment Oregon counties received in December 2006, the second year that percentage drops to 81% and down the third and fourth year. Commissioner Nichols stated that he personally opposes the bail out package even though the Secure Rural Schools Funding was included. The Court, as a whole, agreed that it should have not been a part of the bail out bill it should have been a stand alone bill. It was the consensus of the court to let our congressional delegation know that they do understand the politics of the issue however they need to be looking out for the public interest. The court discussed road funding and how Harney County has been very conservative with funds throughout the years. It was the consensus of the court to discuss road funding at every county court meeting until they reach a consensus on how to address it.

→Tony Dickman of R&W Engineering updated the court on the possibility of a pellet boiler for the courthouse and presented a snapshot of data. He stated he's not affiliated with wood or boiler manufactures. It was the consensus of the court since there is not

enough information at this point to make a decision Mr. Dickman was asked to provide additional information and options for the courthouse and jail heating system.

→Nellie Franklin, Treasurer, was in attendance to ask for direction as to where deposit the \$10,099.85 that Rimrock Recycling had given to the county which were the financial assets of the corporation when it was dissolved. It was the consensus of the court to deposit to the nuisance abatement fund.

→Linda Simmons and Karen Hendrickson of TVCC were in attendance to discuss the Contract Out of District. Ms. Simmons stated there is a state requirement of cash match of \$8,000. Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to pay \$8,000 for the Out of District Contract. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Jon Oshel of the Association of Oregon Counties was in attendance to discuss the County Road Supervisor position. He also informed the court that the four-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act would provide 90% of the payment received in 2006 as the court discussed earlier in the morning. The court commented that it will be a challenge to replace Kerry Landers as Road Supervisor. Mr. Oshel assured the county court that there is no need to hire an engineer for this position, he feels that the person hired must know how to work with the public, budgeting and be knowledgeable of roads and road building.

→Chris Siegner, Harney Behavioral Health Director and Vern Brown, HBH Finance Director, was in attendance to discuss a renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Lake and Harney counties for mental health services. Mr. Siegner explained their involvement providing mental health and financial services to Lake County. Mr. Siegner stated that it's starting to do well as far as services and financial status is turning the corner. Judge Grasty, along with Mr. Siegner and Lake County Commissioner will have more discussion, work on contract details and bring it back to the court for their approval.

→Karen Moon, Watershed Council Coordinator, was in attendance to request for a letter of support regarding OWEB (Oregon Water Enhancement Board) Harney Basin Groundwater Study Landowner Outreach and Technical Assistance grant to develop an action plan from the Donner und Blitzen sub-basin assessment. Ms. Moon requested the use of County's GIS service to identify landowners on the basin and the use of the copy machine. After discussion, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to write the letter of support for the two applications, make the in-kind with providing GIS services and copy machine. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Judge Grasty mentioned that there will be NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) local group meeting on October 14. Commissioner Drinkwater will be attending.

→The court reviewed a letter of approval of 2007 Harney Wasteshed Opportunity to Recycle Program, which stated that the draft recovery rate numbers for 2007 show Harney County at 28.7%. The recovery rate goal for 2009 is 40%.

→The court set a public hearing date of December 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in regards of the Legalization of Penland Road.

→It was noticed that there will be a meeting at the BLM office on October 22, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. on the Fiscal Year 2009 Proposed Range Improvement Projects.

→The court reviewed an Air Quality Program report from DEQ which stated that Burns was on the verge of nonattainment. It was the consensus of the court to work with the cities to try to better the air quality, also work with the media to have daily advisory announcements as to red day and not burn stoves. Also there was a suggestion that more monitors are needed in different sites.

→Judge Grasty made a motion to sign an order of appointment in the matter of appointing a pool of members for the Harney County Board of Property Tax Appeals. Commissioner Drinkwater seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→The court reviewed public notice of water use requests from Oregon Water Resources Department. No objections expressed by the court to any of the requests.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC
Harney County Clerk