

HARNEY COUNTY COURT MEETING

October 6, 2010

→The Harney County Court convened on Wednesday, October 6 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 County Road Supervisor Eric Drushella, Patty Dorroh, Director, Commission on Children and Families and Chief Deputy County Clerk Derrin Robinson.

→Public Attending were; Hilda Allison, Pete Runnels, Chris Pratt, Linda Johnson, Dave Shoemaker 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 September 15, 2010 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

→The Court reviewed a letter of resignation from Wayne Evans, from the Fair Board, effective immediately. Judge Grasty believes that this creates three vacancies on the Fair Board. He advocated for a thorough advertising for all three positions. Commissioner Nichols felt the advertising costs should come from the County Court budget, rather than the Fair Board, as these are County Court appointments. The Court agreed by consensus. Linda Johnson spoke, commending the Fair Board members and all of the Fair Volunteers, for the amount of time and energy given the fair. She stated that it is an incredible donation that often goes un-noticed.

→Bryce Mertz, GIS Coordinator discussed the issue of "B" Street in the platted Gray's Addition to Lawen, as it was tabled at the last court meeting. Mr. Mertz stated that in discussions with the Postmaster, naming that particular road "B" Street is problematic, as it would have a Burns Zip code, therefore causing confusion. If Lawen had a post office, there wouldn't be a problem. After discussion, the court directed Mr. Mertz to follow standard procedure, sending letters to the land owners requesting a suggested name for the road, other than "B" street, and the court would proceed with the naming at that time.

→The Court discussed the BLM's Request that Harney County be a formal cooperating agency in the Boardman to Hemingway Project. Judge Grasty explained that at this point, it is certain that the line will not be coming through Harney County, and felt the County has no interest in being a cooperator in that project at this time.

→The court reviewed the Steens Mountain Advisory Council nomination for Stacy Davies. Commissioner Drinkwater moved to recommend Mr. Davies to that Position, Commissioner Nichols second, the motion carried unanimously.

→Patty Dorroh, Director, Commission on Children and Families, was present and discussed the required annual Commission Self-Assessment, and request approval by the county court. Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the Assessment, Commissioner Drinkwater second, and the motion carried unanimously.

→In the matter of Resolution #2010-15 Requesting Postponement of ODFW's Approval of the Draft Version of the Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy, Judge Grasty updated the court on the recent meeting in Bend regarding this issue. Judge Grasty moved to sign Resolution 2010-15 Requesting Postponement of ODFW's Approval of the Draft Version of the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy. Commissioner Nichols second, the motion carried unanimously.

→The Court reviewed the list of 13 approved Title II projects the Malheur National Forest will implement during Fiscal Year 2011.

→In the Matter of Appointing a Pool of Members for the Harney County Board of Property Tax Appeals, Commissioner Nichols moved to Appoint Steve Grasty, Dan Nichols and Denise Christensen to the Chairpersons pool, and Spencer McMurray, Louann Thompson, Linda Johnson and Hilda Allison to the non-office holding pool. Commissioner Nichols second, the motion carried unanimously.

→The Court reviewed the BLM Environmental Assessment on the Sodhouse Lane realignment, discussed alternatives to the BLM Environmental Assessment analyzing alternatives for the Warm Spring Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather, and reviewed the BLM Notice of Proposed Decision to Implement Chalk Hills Allotment Management Plan. No action was taken regarding any of these issues.

→The court reviewed notices of Water Use Requests; there were objections to any requests.

→The court reviewed a letter from Arts in Education, thanking the court for assistance in bringing the Portland Youth Philharmonic to Harney County.

→Road Supervisor, Eric Drushella wished to recognize the display that Anderson Perry and Associates provided, regarding the 2005-2009 bridge replacement projects. The court felt the display should be in the Lobby, and/or the Community center.

→There being no further business, the court adjourned at 11:15a.m., but planned to stay and hold a work session regarding the North Steens Transmission Line, and The Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Assessment. No action would be taken.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin Robinson, CRA, CEA
Chief Deputy County Clerk