

## Harney County Court Meeting

August 3, 2010

The Harney County Court convened on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steven E. Grasty's office. Members attending were Judge Steve Grasty, Commissioner Dan Nichols and Commissioner Jack Drinkwater. Also attending were Road Supervisor Eric Drushella, County Treasurer Nellie Franklin, and Chief Deputy County Clerk, Derrin Robinson.

Public attending were Linda Johnson, Hilda Allison, Pete Runnels, Mary Ausmus, Becky Cunningham, Zelle, Shirley Gillespie, and Astrid Alexander.

Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Drinkwater made a motion to approve the July 21, 2010 minutes as mailed, Commissioner Nichols seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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

Under Public Comment, Linda Johnson commented that the corner sidewalks and curbs in front of the courthouse look very nice.

In the matter of the Closure of the Contract with 4R Recycling, After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Nichols moved to send letter to Mr. Baron explaining how the court arrived at a balance due of \$3,223.00 along with a check written to 4R Recycling for the difference, amounting to the remainder of the security deposit that was provided at the beginning of the contract, forgiving 6 months' rent, and including interest earned on the deposit. Commissioner Drinkwater second, and the motion carried unanimously.

Judge Grasty stated that when the building sits empty, it costs around 350.00 a month in utilities.

In regards to costs of operating landfills, Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor gave a cost breakdown for the road dept. to trenching at the county landfills. Mr. Drushella summarized that it costs \$7900.00. After discussion, Judge Grasty agreed to draft a letter to all of the rural landfill operators, explaining the costs of operation.

Mr. Drushella shared his concerns about the condition of West Loop Road with all of the recent truck traffic. The Court agreed and will monitor the situation.

In the matter of Costs for providing the Veterans Service Officer Program, Judge Grasty explained the total for 1 full time employee, and program expense is \$48,000.00. Judge Grasty suggested providing \$15,000.00 in order to meet this.

Commissioner Nichols moved to appropriate \$15,000.00 from the General Fund to the Veterans Service Officer Program. Commissioner Drinkwater second, motion carried unanimously.

Vern Brown was present to discuss with the court the costs for building permits. Mr. Brown felt the fees were too high and prohibitive. The court asked Mr. Brown to write a letter to the Planning Department requesting an audit of the fees. Mr. Brown stated he will be doing so. He was concerned that Inspections, Inc. was incorrect in fee calculations.

Judge Grasty provided the court with copies of the 818 page BLM Final Environmental Impact Statement on Vegetation Treatments using Herbicides on BLM land in Oregon. The Commissioners will review the EIS.

Judge Grasty briefly updated the court on the Blue Mt. Forrest plan revision, the Sage Grouse Listing issue, and the cutting of the danger trees up the 43 Rd.

The court discussed the parking lot at the senior center. It is in poor shape and the Road Dept isn't equipped to pave up against buildings. Judge Grasty explained that it is a county facility, and he would like to at least get the cracks sealed, as they need to be repaired. He stated it it's a band-aid and then we can budget for an overlay. The court agreed by consensus.

The representatives from Rimrock Recycling present with an update. Becky Cunningham, speaking for Rimrock Recycling, asked for the balance of the funds given from the previous Rimrock recycling program, to purchase some equipment. Judge Grasty asked them to submit the request in writing.

At 1:15 p.m. The court went in to executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations. The court reconvened into regular session at At1:30 p.m. Commissioner Drinkwater moved to accept the AFSCME Contract for the 991 Communication Dispatchers as presented. Commissioner Nichols second, and the motion carried unanimously.

The court reviewed Notices of Water use requests, there were no objections to any requests.

The court reviewed miscellaneous correspondence, and discussed future agenda items.

There, being no further business, the court adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin Robinson CRA, CEA  
Chief Deputy Harney County Clerk

