



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County
Minutes of the County Court Session***

May 17, 2017

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Pete Runnel's office at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Mark Owens, and Commissioner Patty Dorroh. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Deanna Atwell, Finance/HR Manager; Rick Paul, Fair Director; Nellie Franklin, Treasurer; Dag Robinson, County Clerk; Karen Moon, Watershed Council; Brandon McMullen, Planning Director; and Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk.

Also attending were Steve Beverlin, Malheur Forest Supervisor; Christy Cheyne, Emigrant Creek District Ranger; Gerard LaBrecque, Joseph's Juniper Inc.; Samantha White, Burns Times Herald; Dauna Wensenk, Burns City Manager; Judy Erwin, Hines City Administrator; Mark Doverspike, Barbara Cannady, Wayne Smith, and Forrest Keady.

Work Session 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Voucher Approval

The Court reviewed accounts payables, signed checks, and approved the vouchers by Court signature.

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2017 County Court meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

High School Rodeo at the Harney County Fairgrounds May 19-21.

Old Business

Flood Issues

Judge Runnels and Commissioner Owens updated the Court and discussed the recent meeting with FEMA.

Economic Development discussion

The Court participated in a meeting with city officials to discuss the Harney County Economic Development Coordinator job description and economic development needs. Commissioner Dorroh is working on a draft of input from the cities, residents, and local business owners and will present to the Court at a later date.

New Business

Appointment of a County Treasurer to complete the term vacated by the retirement of Nellie Franklin

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to appoint Bobbi Jo Heany as County Treasurer to fulfill the remainder of the term vacated by Nellie Franklin beginning July 1, 2017, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously. Bobbi Jo Heany will be sworn in as Deputy Treasurer from her start date through June 30, 2017.

10:15-11:15 a.m., Malheur Forest Supervisor, Steve Beverlin, with an update on the Blue Mountains Forest Revision Plan

Steve Beverlin provided the Court with an update on the Blue Mountains Forest Revision Plan. Topics of discussion included background on the plan (plan revision process with public feedback and formal comments, and the final draft decision completion date); objection process (60-day objection period to the draft decision, before it becomes final, for Harney County); USDA Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision March, April, and June 2016 Newsletters; grazing management guidelines; stewardship contracts and receipts; and timber sale receipts.

Review and signing of the Cooperative Assistance Agreement between the counties of Eastern Oregon

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve and sign the Cooperative Assistance Agreement, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Council appointment

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to appoint John Thelen to the Harney County Watershed Council at large position, and seconded by Judge Runnels. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously. Karen Moon gave the Court an update on the Watershed Council.

11:30 a.m., conversation with State Division of Financial Regulation Regarding Insurance Regulatory processes

Kevin Jeffries, Christine Shirley, and Ryan Keeling discussed with the Court flood insurance options for Harney County. The Court received valuable information on the

options for flood insurance for Harney County, and the details regarding self-insurance will continue to be discussed.

Review of Water Use Requests

1:15 p.m., Representatives from the Burns District BLM to discuss the Stewardship Program

John Reponen and Holly Orr, BLM, discussed the Burns District BLM stewardship programs. Discussion topics included legislation, current stewardship contracts, future contracts, and the request for proposal electronic process.

Correspondence

FEMA-Major Disaster Declaration for State of Oregon, denied

Forest Service-Notice of Vance Decks sale

Forest Service-Invitation to meet with the Regional Forester and Forest Supervisor

Oregon Water Resources-Notice that Harney Basin Groundwater Level Measurements are scheduled for May 22-27, 2017

BLM, Vale District-Notice of an Environmental Assessment out of public review and input

Scheduling

Public Hearing in Fields-May 18, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., at the Fields School

Budget Hearings-May 31 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Late Items

Public Hearing in Riley June 14, 5:30-7p

Public Hearing in Diamond June 20, 5:30-7p

General Deliberation by the Court (no decisions will be made)

For the Record

Adjournment

The Court recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m., and reconvened at 1:15 p.m. There being no further discussion, the Court adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk