



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

June 7, 2017

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Pete Runnel's office at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Mark Owens, and Commissioner Patty Dorroh. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Road Department Supervisor; Rick Paul, Fair Manager and Sharon Johnson, County Court Assistant.

Public attending were Marjorie Thelen, Barbara Cannady, Samantha White of the Burns Times Herald, Judy Erwin, Hines City Administrator and Holly Orr of the BLM.

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.

Court Session 10:00 a.m.

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2017 County Court meeting, Commissioner Owens seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was none.

Old Business

Flood Issues

Judge Runnels and Commissioner Owens provided an update on flooding issues and recent meetings they attended regarding levee certification and self-insurance. The next flood meeting will be June 28 at 10 a.m. in Judge Runnel's office. Discussion followed.

Economic Development discussion

Judge Runnels stated that a "Scope of Work" for Economic Development Services has been sent to the Cities for their input, which he would like to have back by Friday. He suggested adding to the document a requirement that there would be a local presence/office here. He said that an RFP would be published by June 15 and hopes to have someone hired by mid-July. Commissioner Dorroh discussed the previous Scope of Work and how it was lacking in certain areas; she updated that Scope of Work and that is what is out for review now. Commissioner Dorroh will be holding meetings on the next four Thursdays to discuss Economic Development. Discussion followed.

New Business

County Treasurer Nellie Franklin introduced the new County Treasurer, Bobbi Jo Heany.

Court Order in the Matter of Cancellation of Personal Property Taxes per ORS 311.790. Tax Collector/Assessor Ted Tiller was present to explain the Order regarding personal property tax accounts that are deemed uncollectable and the process that must be followed. A list of those properties can be viewed in the County Clerk's office, County Court meeting packet. Commissioner Dorroh made a motion to approve the Court Order, Judge Runnels seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing in the Matter of donating County owned Property to the Senior Center. The Hearing was opened at 10:30 a.m. and closed at 11:30 am.; there was no public comment.

Discussion regarding the Oregon Growth Plan, a deferred comp provider.

Judge Runnels explained that a representative from the Oregon Savings Growth Plan had met with County employees and described their program. Currently the County offers Nationwide and Valic Deferred Comp plans. Commissioner Owens made a motion to offer the Oregon Savings Growth Plan to County employees, Commissioner Dorroh seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Appointment to the Local Community Advisory Council.

Commissioner Dorroh explained the Council responsibilities and that local resident Sophie M. Corden has applied to be appointed to the LCAC. Commissioner Owens made a motion to appoint Sophie Corden, Commissioner Dorroh seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Review of revised/updated pages for the Emergency Operations Plan.

Judge Runnels explained the changes that were made and the requirement for the EOP to be updated every five years. Commissioner Dorroh made a motion to approved the revised/updated pages, Commissioner Owens seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Letters regarding the Burns Paiute Tribal Fishery.

From Gary S. Miller, Field Supervisor, USFW and Rob Jones, Chief, Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Branch, West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service.
Forest Service – Summit Creek Landscape Restoration Project.
From Steven K. Beverlin, Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest.

Scheduling

Public Hearing in Riley, June 14, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Riley School.

Public Hearing in Diamond, June 20, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Diamond School.

Public Hearing to Adopt the Budget, June 21, 1:30 p.m., Judge Runnels office.

Late Items

Marjorie Thelen reported that the Democratic Party of Oregon will be holding their Quarterly Meeting in Harney County on June 24 and 25; there will be approximately 150 people coming in for the meeting. It is open to the public on Sunday, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., for caucus meetings, at the Courthouse. Discussion followed.

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

Economic Development was discussed again at length. Ms. Thelen suggested that the arts are a draw for people to the area. Holly Orr suggested housing should be part of Economic Development, she said bringing in seasonal firefighters is difficult because housing is an issue. She also suggested that making juniper pellets for wood burning stoves might be a lucrative business idea. Judy Erwin suggested developing/promoting the fiber optics in the County as it is a huge draw for business.

The meeting was recessed at 11:25 a.m. and resumed at 1:30 p.m.

The Public Hearing of the Budget Committee to Approve the Budget was opened at 1:30 p.m. by Judge Runnels.

Present for the Public Hearing to Approve the Budget were all three County Court members, Budget Committee members Terri Hellbusch and Curt Blackburn, County Fair Manager Rick Paul and County Court Assistant Sharon Johnson. Also attending was Barbara Cannady.

Commissioner Owens suggested having a spread sheet for next year's budget meetings that shows revenue streams, grants, etc.

Rick Paul suggested that the County plan to do something with the floor in the Memorial Building next budget year, 2018/2019. Discussion followed.

Increasing costs on medical, vision and dental insurance for county employees were discussed at length.

Curt Blackburn made a motion to approve the Budget for 2017/2018, Terri Hellbusch seconded, motion carried unanimously. The Hearing was closed at 2:12 p.m.

For the Record

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Johnson
County Court Assistant