



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

March 22, 2017

The Harney County Court met for the purpose of a Public Hearing on March 22, 2017 at 5:00 p.m., at the Drewsey School. Members present were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Mark Owens, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, Road master Eric Drushella; Travis Hodnett, Road Dept.- Drewsey Field Station and Derrin “Dag” Robinson, County Clerk.

Public Attending included Norman and DeeAnn Miller, Jim Bentz, Norm and Anne Clark, Barbara Arnold, Ken Englebretson, Travis Williams, Dan and Janyce Courtney, Dave and Jana French.

Eric Drushella provided an update on the plan to replace the bridge on Market Road that has recently washed out. It is scheduled to be replaced this year. A temporary bridge will be built, and the new permanent bridge built in September-October.

Jim Bentz inquired about flooding around Burns, and if aerial photos have been taken to show where the water actually is during this high point, to help with community based water planning.

Travis Williams expressed concerns about the condition of the livestock buildings at the fairgrounds, and asked the court for assistance in replacing the aging structures.

Barbara Arnold inquired as to if the Road Dept. could do any dust abatement on the gravel Roads. Mr. Drushella explained it has been standard policy to not do dust abatement, due to cost, as once it washes off, the cost was a waste.

Norm Clark inquired if the Court could look into the possibility of Turn lanes on Hwy 20 at Drewsey Junction, Pine Creek Junction, and Crane-Buchanan Rd Junction.

Anne Clark shared dates for the rural fire protection districts annual training.

Travis Williams asked for assistance from the Court to seek better management of the Hammond’s Grazing allotment, as BLM is unable to discuss with anyone, as it is in Litigation.

Barbara Arnold expressed concerns about internet infrastructure in rural Harney County, and hopes it can remain a top priority.

Jim Bentz expressed concerns about promises made to ranchers by Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife regarding reentry of Salmon in Malheur River, and wants assurance that since ODFW accidentally introduced females, ranchers will not now fending off an endangered Species designation in the river. There was a commitment made by ODFW that would not happen.

The Community was happy the Court has agreed to hold public hearings in the rural communities and hopes it continues in the future.

There being no further testimony, the Court adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin (Dag) Robinson
Harney County Clerk

DRAFT