



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

***February 7, 2018***

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also attending were Ted Tiller, Tax Assessor; Donna Thomas, Justice of the Peace; Eric Drushella, Road Department; Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; Sheriff Dave Ward, Brian Needham, and Ginger Brewer, Sheriff's Office; Karen Nitz, Western History Room/Library; Bobbi Jo Heany, Treasurer; Matt Kohl, Dawna Sue Nyman, DeeDee Henry, Home Health and Hospice; Deanna Atwell, HR/Finance, and Guy McKay and Tim Mosher, Veterans Office.

Public attending was Randy Parks, Burns Times Herald; Holly Orr, BLM; Steve Beverlin, Arnie Cole, Pete LaDuke, and Travis Swaim, USFS; Shana Withee, Melissa Woodbury, Vanessa Schroeder, Dustin Johnson, Willie Riggs, and David Bohnert, OSU Extension; Rob Frank, Rick Paul, Barbara Cannady, and Barb Kull.

**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 January 17, 2018, County Court session. Commissioner Owens seconded the Motion, and with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

Rob Frank expressed his strong opposition to Harney County establishing a rural health clinic through the Harney County Health Department. He feels that the government should not be involved in health care at this level, and believes the catalyst for this decision is that the Harney County Health Department loses money for the County. The County Health Department is a public service and is not supposed to be a profitable venture. His concern is also if the rural health clinic does not prove profitable, but is in fact a liability, it will end up costing the taxpayers of Harney County more money. He also discussed what he sees as an influx of people from outside areas coming to Harney County to take advantage of welfare benefits.

### **Old Business**

#### **Local Access Road Discussion**

Discussion tabled until a future County Court meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **10:15-10:45 a.m. USFS-Overview on Timber Sales Project**

Travis Swaim, Pete LaDuke, Arnie Cole, Steve Beverlin presented the Court with the 5-year Timber Action Plan FY2018-2022 and the 2018 Tentative Timber Sale Schedule (Grant and Harney Counties) and discussed the various timber sale projects.

#### **10:45 a.m. Shana Withee, OSU Extension Office, Year-End Review**

Shana Withee discussed the Harney County 4-H 2016-2017 year. Topics included 4-H participation, teaching/public outreach & engagements, County Leader role, and Oregon 4-H Japanese Exchange program.

Melissa Woodbury, Educational Program Assistant, provided the Court with pictures and discussed the Harney County Ambassadors Program, including activities such as 2017 Rush Night, Fun Fridays program, and the Babysitter Training.

Dustin Johnson, Range and Livestock Extension Agent, discussed his activities which are highly integrated with the community-based conversations including reduction of occurrence and effects of large scale wildfires, water planning efforts, and Sage Grouse conservation and habitat management. He discussed various educational activities and programs including bringing in experts in irrigation technology and crop management, Sage Grouse eco-based approach management framework, High Desert Youth Range Camp, Science and Sagebrush Steppe, and land management planning and GIS geared towards landowners/managers and agencies.

Vanessa Schroeder, OSU Facility Research Assistant (Sage Steppe Habitat Team), discussed topics including rangeland ecology to support different wildlife habitats, activities to provide science when making land management decisions, larger scale grazing study, weed management, and study focused on indirect effects of grazing.

David Bohnert, Director of the Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center, discussed employment opportunities, and upcoming events to include AI (Artificial Insemination) School March 28-30, 2018 at the experiment station; Range Field Day on June 26, 2018, in LaGrande; and Society for Range Management annual business meeting on June 26-28, 2018, and October 22-25, 2018, there will be a beef industry tour.

Willie Riggs, Director of the Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center and the Regional Administrator, discussed funding for faculty and staff, and changes in the administrative model for OSU Extension.

#### 11:30 a.m. Approval of Jail Inventory Search Policy Resolution #2018-02

Sheriff David Ward and Lt. Brian Needham, Harney County Sheriff's Office, discussed the search policy with the Court. Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve Resolution #2108-02 (CJ2018-25) in the Matter of a Resolution Authorizing an Inventory Search Policy for the Harney County Jail, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

#### Amending Ordinance #2018-79, County Uniform Fee Schedule

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve Ordinance #2018-80 (CJ2018-26, 2018-145) in the Matter of Establishing Harney County's Uniform Fee Schedule for Various County Departments Established under Ordinance #2018-79 and Declaring an Emergency, and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

#### 1:15 p.m. Dedication of Oregon Medal of Honor Highway Sign on US20

### **Correspondence**

Annual report from American Legion Post #63

Vale District BLM, implementing emergency stabilization

BLM Scoping meeting is scheduled for February, 2018. Updating 2005 Normal Fire Emergency

Harney Basin quarterly synoptic groundwater level measurements at selected wells

USDA Harney County Local Work Group meeting (February 27, 2018, 1-4p)

### **Review of Water use requests**

### **Scheduling**

Next County Court meeting Wednesday, February 21, 2018, County Court Chambers.

A Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center, to discuss the Meadowlands issue including roads and easements.

Rural Meetings for 2018:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>
Crane/Princeton	
Frenchglen/Diamond	
Drewsey	April 3, 2018 5:30-7p
Riley	May 16, 2018
Fields	April 30, 2018

**Late Items**

**Employee Recognition**

The County Court and Deanna Atwell, HR/Finance Director, recognized the following County employees for their years of service:

Karen Nitz, Library, 10 years  
Matt Kohl, Home Health & Hospice, 5 years  
Donna Thomas, Justice Court, 5 years  
Sheriff Dave Ward, Sheriff's Office, 10 years  
Ginger Brewer, Sheriff's Office 10 years  
Tammy Johnston, Clerk's Office, 5 years  
Ted Tiller, Tax Assessors Office, 15 years  
DeeDee Henry, Home Health & Hospice, 5 years

**Harney County Court March meetings**

Due to scheduling conflicts in March, there will only be one (1) County Court meeting. The meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. in County Court Chambers.

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

Regionalization of 911

**For the Record**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston  
Deputy Clerk