



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

January 17, 2018

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; and Sheriff Dave Ward and Lt. Brian Needham, Harney County Sheriff's Office.

Public attending were Paul Hyland, Lynn Findley, Rick Paul, Keith Baltzor, Lori Peila, Katie Baltzor, Bill Peila, Jon Burri, Karyn Burri, Barbara Cannady, Jeff Rose, BLM; and Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald.

Work Session 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Lynn Findley, Vale, visited with the Court regarding various issues. He is interested in running for State Representative, District 60.

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 3, 2018, County Court session. Commissioner Owens seconded the Motion, with no further discussion the Motion carried unanimously.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Paul Hyland discussed the fencing, recently built in conjunction with bridge replacement on Emery Lane, and is impeding livestock access to water. Eric Drushella, Roadmaster, will address this issue.

Harney County residents including Keith and Katie Baltzor, Jon and Caryn Burri, and Bill and Lori Peila addressed the Court regarding their concerns of the amount of thru traffic on Greenhouse Lane. Property owners have seen an increase in traffic and believe Internet mapping apps are routing vehicles and trucks down Greenhouse Lane to bypass Hines and Burns. The residents feel it is an immediate public safety issue and requested assistance from the Court, and asked if this road can be designated as local access only. Sheriff Ward and Lt. Brian Needham agreed with the residents that this is a safety issue. Eric Drushella, Roadmaster, will work with residents and ODOT regarding signage. The Court agreed to work with residents and other concerned parties to address the thru traffic on Greenhouse Lane.

Old Business

Eric Drushella, Roadmaster, recommended to the Court to award the dozier lease bid to Western States Equipment, Meridian, Idaho. He discussed equipment lease versus purchase, and felt leasing the dozier was the best option for the County. Commissioner Owens made a Motion to award the dozier lease bid to Western States, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

10:15 a.m. Dave Ward, Training on Wolf Deprivation

Sheriff Dave Ward and Lt. Brian Needham, Harney County Sheriff's Office, discussed a recent wolf deprivation training they attended. The training included identification of predator bites and behaviors, and investigation procedures. Sheriff Ward also suggested re-establishing the Wolf Committee to address wolves in Harney County. Other topics of discussion included estimated wolf population in Oregon, wolf legislation, education of land owners on how to report livestock loss due to predators, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife procedures.

10:45 a.m. Becky Cunningham, Rimrock Recycling Annual Report Postponed until February

Approval and Appointment of County Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Order
Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion In the Matter of Appointing Judge Pete Runnels as the County Budget Officer for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019, and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Vacant Livestock Grazing Allotment on the Malheur National Forest and in particular on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District

News Release: Forest Service seeks comment on work to increase efficiency of National Environmental Policy Act compliance

Review of Water use requests

Scheduling

Next County Court meeting Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:15 a.m., County Court Chambers.

2018 Rural Meetings, to be finalized at the next County Court meeting

February 7, 2018, 1:15 p.m, Courthouse lobby, Medal of Honor highway sign dedication

Late Items

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

For the Record

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk