



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

July 6, 2017

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Pete Runnels' office at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, July 6, 2017. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Mark Owens, and Commissioner Patty Dorroh. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Rick Paul, Fair Manager; and Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk,

Also attending were Tara Thissell, BLM; Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald; Lori Bailey, Melissa Ward, and Travis Swaim, U.S. Forest Service; Sherri Smith, Gregory Smith & Co., LLC; 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 June 21, 2017 County Court meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Barbara Cannady asked the Court to invite Representative Cliff Bentz to discuss legislative issues and economic development. Judge Runnels will make contact with his office to schedule a visit.

Old Business

Flood Issues

Judge Runnels discussed the June 28, 2017, meeting regarding ongoing flood issues. Judge Runnels and Commissioner Owens have reached out to insurance companies to discuss self-insurance, and will keep the Court updated. The County has applied for a \$50,000 grant to complete the feasibility study on the levee. Ferguson Engineering will complete a survey, to include an evaluation of the water flow, on the Highway 20 Bridge.

Economic Development discussion

Commissioner Dorroh updated the Court on the Economic Development work sessions. The topics of discussion were agriculture, industry, Main Street, tourism, housing, infrastructure, work force, and small business. The purpose of the work sessions was to work toward a competitive assessment, which will lead to a sound comprehensive strategy for economic development. Main conclusions: work toward additional capacity in agriculture if we can, capitalize on our natural resources and natural setting, and attract appropriate industry and business to diversify our local economy and provide primary jobs. Request for Proposals (RFP), Economic Development Services, are due by 5:00 p.m. on July 7, 2017.

New Business

10:15 a.m., Forest Service, Emigrant Creek Ranger District to brief the Court on the Flat Project

Lori Bailey, Melissa Ward, and Travis Swaim, U.S. Forest Service, gave a presentation to the Court on the Flat Project. Topics of the discussion included location of the project, purposes of the project, roads, and timber. The project, interactive map, and other information can be found on their website: www.fs.usda.gov/malheur.

Appointment of Lynn M. Whitney to the Housing Authority of Malheur and Harney County Board

Judge Runnels made a Motion to appoint Lynn M. Whitney to the Housing Authority of Malheur and Harney County Board, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water Use Requests

Correspondence

DEQ-Approval-2017 Annual Recertification of Financial Assurance, Harney County Landfills

Department of the Interior-Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program

Scheduling

Next County Court meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2017, 9:15 a.m. in Judge Runnels' office.

Late Items

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to remove Nellie Franklin, add Bobbi Jo Heany, and add Judge Runnels on the signature card for the account at SELCO Credit Union. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

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

For the Record

Adjournment

There being no further matters, County Court was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk