



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

***September 20, 2017***

The Harney County Court convened in Judge Pete Runnels' office at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels and Commissioner Patty Dorroh, with Commissioner Owens attending via telephone. Also attending were Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; and Rick Paul, Fair Manager.

Public attending were Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald; and Karen Moon, Harney County Fair Board.

**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 September 6, 2017, County Court meeting, and seconded by Judge Runnels. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Rick Paul, Fair Manager, thanked the Court for all their support of the 2017 Harney County Fair.

## **Old Business**

### **Flood Issues Update**

Judge Runnels updated the Court on the Flood meeting on September 19, 2017. Bethany Harrington, Department of State Lands (DSL), advised the County can receive exemptions for levee work and maintenance, and permits and exemptions for debris and garbage removal. Judge Runnels will contact DSL after the County Court session to get all the details before starting any work.

## **New Business**

### **Appointing a Pool of Members for the Harney County Board of Property Tax Appeals**

After discussion to clarify the Order of Appointment with Dag Robinson, County Clerk, Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the Order In the Matter Appointing a Pool of Members for the Harney County Board of Property Tax Appeals, and seconded by Judge Runnels. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously. Members appointed in the Chairpersons pool were Peter Runnels, Mary P. Dorroh, Mark Owens, and Hilda Allison. Members appointed in the non-office-holding pool were Hilda Allison and Mardy Stewart.

10:45 a.m. Executive Session as authorized by ORS 192.610(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed

11:15 a.m. Executive Session as authorized by ORS 192.610(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations

### **Review of Water Use Requests**

## **Correspondence**

BLM, Vale – Implementing the stabilization and burned area rehabilitation (ERS) actions

BLM, Vale – Public Consultation for the Fuels Reduction Grazing Research and Education Project within the Three Rivers Fingers Allotment Vale District

## **Scheduling**

The next County Court meeting will be October 4, 2017, at 9:15 a.m. in Judge Runnels' office.

Rural work session meetings confirmed:

October 2, 2017      Drewsey, 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
October 3, 2017      Crane/Princeton, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Rural work session meetings to be confirmed:

October 10, 2017 Location TBA  
October 11, 2017 BLM work session at 5:15 p.m., location TBA  
October 19, 2017 Riley  
October 23, 2017 French Glen/Diamond (at French Glen)

**Late Items**

Eric Drushella, Roadmaster, gave an update to the Court regarding the road department. Topics of discussion included road safety, and paving and chip seal job completions.

The Court also discussed a petition to vacate a road in Crane. After review and investigation of the petition, Eric recommended the Court discuss the petition with the petitioner and use other options to solve the request. The Court will review the petition with County Counsel and made a decision at a later date.

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

**For the Record**

**Adjournment**

County Court recessed for Executive Session at 10:45 a.m., and reconvened at 11:09 a.m., with no action taken. Court recessed for Executive Session at 11:15 a.m., and reconvened at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve the Harney County Counsel Employment Agreement with changes as discussed, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, County Court adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston  
Deputy Clerk