



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

December 18, 2019

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also attending the session were Bobbi Jo Heany, County Treasurer and Dag Robinson, County Clerk.

Public attending was Rick Paul, Susan Doverspike, Herb Vloedman, Kristen Shelman, Lynn McClintock, Rhonda Karges and Bill Wilber.

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 December 4th, 2019, County Court session and Commissioner Owens seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Additions to Agenda-

- Commissioner Owens to provide a report on Ground Water,
- Second Reading on Road Map Ordinance.

The County Court recognized Virginia Lopez, Health Dept WIC Coordinator for her years of service and will provide her with a token of appreciation for her continued outstanding service to Harney County.

Public Comment

Rhonda Karges asked about the status of working to change the flood map situation. Judge Runnels explained unfortunately, finalization is still a couple years out, in order to make changes to the city map. He stated the goal is to get it more accurate than what the FEMA map represents. Commissioner Owens stated the county maps could be completed hopefully within a year.

Lynn McClintock, Board Member, High Desert Park and Recreation District asked for assistance with spring maintenance of the walking path. The County owns the path, the Park and Recreation District manages it. The court agreed to assist in the spring.

Commissioner Dorroh recognized Paul Gray, Harney County Emergency Management Coordinator and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; for his work on recently receiving extensive training and certifications as a “trainer” with FEMA. He has done an outstanding job, and his training will be valuable to Harney County, and our Eastern Oregon partners.

Commissioner Dorroh also mentioned the Harney County Wolf Advisory Council “alert sense” program is working well. A confirmed wolf was seen just days ago near the junction of Hwy 395 and Hwy 20 East, and subscribers were notified timely.

Commissioner Owens mentioned the court is preparing to publish in the paper a complete explanation of the budget situation from the beginning of the fiscal year. The information has been put together in a sensible, easy to read format, and provides information that should help ease the minds of citizens as the court puts the situation behind us and on a path forward.

Old Business

Commissioner Owens discussed the groundwater advisory committee meeting last week. The assessment has been reviewed, and in essence, the basin is using 130,000-acre feet more ground water than is coming into the Harney Basin. He believes the data is correct. Management changes on the ground in a controlled and precise manner, will help alleviate the problem. The conversation and planning will not be easy.

In regards to the Application to purchase county owned land (Lot 412), Judge Runnels has verified there are decrepit buildings and land will need cleaned up. The purchasing party will be required to clean up the land and the county will hold the deed until the cleanup is complete. The court agreed to move forward with sale of the property.

In regards to the Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-92 (CJ2019-181), In the matter of Amending the Harney County Comprehensive Plan to Recognize the “Harney County Workforce Housing Roadmap 2019”, Judge Runnels read the ordinance again by title only. Judge Runnels moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-92. Commissioner Owens seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. *(This ordinance was signed at the December 4th 2019 County Court meeting inadvertently, and was ratified again by this second reading.)*

New Business

Bill Wilber, representing the Natural Resource Advisory Committee, thanked the court for being appointed to the committee, and provided a report. He said there was a request that the committee be given a directive. He touched on several issues they see at hand; A) Give the committee a directive. B) BLM has a positive working relationship with Landowners and permittees. C) The Committee feels work needs to be done with Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife. He stated their favorite term is “toolbox”, they have a toolbox, and the toolbox is empty. He reiterated here is an economic impact to this as well. They are simply doing a poor job of game management. D) Forest Service needs a better plan to salvage dead and dying trees.

The court reviewed an order ratifying their decision to appoint Dan Jenkins to the position of Harney County Sheriff. Commissioner Owens moved to sign the Order In the Matter of Appointment of Harney County Sheriff to Fill a Vacancy Until the Next General Election, effective January 3, 2020. Commissioner Dorroh seconded and the motion carried unanimously. *(CJ2019-189)*

Commissioner Owens apologized on behalf of the County Court for the candidates not being contacted immediately after the appointment was made. He said it was an oversight on their part, and they truly regret the situation.

Commissioner Dorroh moved to appoint Savannah Cate to the Local Community Advisory Council for the Easter Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (CC). Commissioner Owens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

County Treasurer Bobbi Jo Heany presented the revised Harney County Investment Policy, and explained and it has been reviewed by the Oregon Treasury and County Counsel. Commissioner Dorroh moved to adopt Resolution 2019-34 In the Matter of Approving the Revised Harney County Investment Policy. Commissioner Owens seconded and the motion carried unanimously. *(CJ2019-190)*

The court discussed receipt of unexpected revenue for Public Health Modernization from Oregon Health Authority. Ms. Heany explained the revenue is not being appropriated, only received. Commissioner Owens moved to Adopt Resolution 2019-35 In the Matter Estimating Revenue Due to an Unexpected Occurrence or Condition, in fund 245. Commissioner Dorroh seconded and the motion carried unanimously. *(CJ2019-191)*

Ms. Heany reviewed Resolution 2019-36, relating to appropriating funds for the Early Learning Hub, of which Harney County has served as a pass-through agent for Harney ESD. Commissioner Dorroh touched on the history of the Early Learning Hub, and moved to adopt Resolution 2019-36 In the Matter of Appropriating Funds Due to Unexpected Occurrence or Condition in ELC Hub Fund 227. Commissioner Owens seconded and the motion carried unanimously. *(CJ2019-192)*

Commissioner Owens asked the Treasurer if the transfer from Road Department to the General Fund to fill the gap until December has been paid back in full. She stated it has.

The court reviewed Notices of Water Use requests. Commissioner Owens stated there didn't look like anything out of the ordinary and there were no objections to any requests.

The court discussed scheduling. The January County Court meeting will be held January 9th to cover a scheduling conflict.

The court recessed at 10:50 a.m.

At 11:30 a.m. The court convened in executive session as per ORS 192.660(2)(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. Attending the executive session were Judge Runnels, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Dorroh, Dag Robinson, County Clerk; Joseph Lucas, District Attorney; Lt. Brian Needham, Undersheriff; Roxanne Ellis, Jail Commander; Dan Jenkins, Sheriff designate; Tim Colahan, County Counsel and Kurt Sanfilipo and Dave Nelson; City County Insurance Services.

At 1:00 p.m., the court reconvened in open session, with no action taken.

There being no further business, the court adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derrin (Dag) Robinson, C.C.C
Harney County Clerk