



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

***December 4, 2019***

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also in attendance were Tammy Johnston, Clerk's Office; Brandon McMullen, Planning Department; Vicky Clemens, Justice Court; Brook Hatley and Laura Ellibee, Juvenile Department; Bobbi Jo Heany, Treasurer; Ryan Hughes, Assistant District Attorney; Eric Drushella, Road Department; Matt Ellibee, Brian Needham, Tim Scott, and David McDonald, Sheriff's Office;

Public attending was Jeff Rose, BLM; Randy Parks, BTH; Newt Skunkcap and Robby Tiller, Burns Police Department, Alan Johnson, Burns Paiute Tribal Police; Rick Paul, Lynn McClintock, Terri Hellbusch, Barbara Cannady, and Susan Doverspike.

**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 November 26, 2019, County Court session and Commissioner Owens seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

None

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

### **Review of Draft Ordinance #2019-92, in regards to establishing the “Harney County Workforce Roadmap 2019 as a supporting document to the County Comprehensive Plan by reference**

Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, discussed the Ordinance #2019-92 with the Court. Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve Ordinance #2019-92 In the Matter of Amending the Harney County Comprehensive Plan to Recognize the “Harney County Workforce Housing Road Map 2019” (CJ2019-182) first reading by title only (CJ2019-181, 2019-1565), and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

### **Vicky Clemens, Justice of the Peace, Justice Court Update**

Vicky Clemens, Justice of the Peace, (ORS 51.245) as a justice of the peace who is not a member of the Oregon State Bar, is required to provide an annual report to the governing body of her completed continuing legal education. She is required to complete 30 hours of continuing education every two (2) calendar years. June 2019, she attended the National Judicial College, Special Jurisdiction Courts, and received 49 total hours of continuing education hours. She will e-mail the Court a copy of the form which provides verification of her completed continuing education. Other topics of discussion included financial and budget update, trend toward the inability of courts to suspend drivers' licenses for fail to appear/fail to comply and the class action suit, Justice Court hours of operation, and public safety issues.

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

### **11:00 a.m. Interview of candidates for Interim Harney County Sheriff-Dan Jenkins, Lucas McLain, and Chris Nisbet**

Dan Jenkins, Lucas McLain, and Chris Nisbet addressed the Court and answered questions regarding the position of Harney County Sheriff. During the discussion period, it was mentioned by the Court they were very fortunate to have three (3) qualified candidates. After some discussion, Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to appoint Dan Jenkins to the position of Harney County Sheriff, and seconded by Judge Runnels. With no further discussion, the Motion carried with Judge Runnels and Commissioner Dorroh voting yea and Commissioner Owens voting nay.

## **Correspondence**

None

## **Scheduling**

County Court Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 (may need to reschedule due to BoPTA training, TBA after December 31, 2019)

Thursday, January 9, 2020, tentatively set for County Court Meeting

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

**Late Items**

Jeff Rose, BLM, gave a sage grouse update. Based on a court case in Idaho, there is a preliminary injunction moving back to the 2015 amendment. The main difference between the 2015 and 2018 amendments is the reduction of grazing in research natural areas across Oregon but there are none in Harney County that will be reduced.

Eric Drushella, Road Department, updated the Court on the recent snow event and snow removal.

Brook Hatley, Harney County Juvenile Department, introduced new hire Laura Ellibee, Juvenile Counselor.

Judge Runnels will contact agencies regarding scheduling the meeting on December 18, 2019, to discuss the Vloedman property and the proposed Harney County Justice Center.

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

**For the Record**

**Adjournment**

Recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m. With no further business, County Court adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tammy Johnston*  
Deputy Clerk