



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

July 3, 2019

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, July 3, 2019. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also in attendance were Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; Angela Lamborn, Senior Center; and Eric Drushella, Road Department.

Public attending was Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald; Cheryl Smith, Matthew Hawley, Dennis Davis, Dwight Hammond, Lyle Hammond, Dave Doman, Tom Doman, and Lisa Idoeta.

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 19, 2019, County Court session and Commissioner Owens seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Commissioner Owens gave the Court an update on the BLM lawsuit regarding the Steens/Hammond grazing allotment. The temporary restraining order has been extended until July 17 or 23, 2019. The next step will be a Judge's ruling, either continue the restraining order or allow grazing until the case can be heard. Jeff Rose, BLM Burns District Manager, is not the person making the decisions to lift the temporary restraining order. These decisions on the BLM level of category exclusion go a lot further up than our local office, these are federal and national decisions. These mistakes and errors, which the environmental groups are claiming, were not caused by Jeff Rose or the BLM Burns District office.

New Business

10:05 a.m.-10:55 a.m. Hearing for Vacation of Roads Land in the Town Site of Crane

Judge Runnels opened the Public Hearing regarding the vacation of roads in Crane, Oregon. After discussion and comments from the public, the Hearing was closed at 10:55 a.m. A Resolution will be drafted and signed at the next County Court meeting.

Approval Land Sale Request – Buck & Linda Taylor

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve the application to purchase County owned land by Buck and Linda Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Community Advisory Council (CAC) Application – Jennifer Williams

Commissioner Dorroh discussed application from Jennifer Williams to be appointed to the EOCCO Local CCO Advisory Council (LCAC). Judge Runnels made a Motion to appoint Jennifer Williams to the LCAC, and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and approval of letter to Forest Supervisor, Mr. Craig Trulock, Malheur National Forest, Blue Mountain Ranger District

Commissioner Owens discussed the letter to Craig Trulock, Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest, Blue Mountain Ranger District (CJ2019-97), regarding the Draft Record of Decision Notice for the Rattlesnake Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project as well as setting up a work session to discuss future project communication. Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve and sign the letter addressed to Craig Trulock, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and approval of letter to the Oregon Secretary of State, Bev Clarno, regarding auditing of past County financials

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve and sign the letter from the Harney County Court to Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno (CJ2019-98), and seconded by

Commission Dorroh. The letter requests a review, technical assistance, or advice and referral to provide Harney County with an objective analysis of the county's past budgeting errors and expenditures. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2019-20 – In the Matter of Declaring Part of Malheur Lake Basin Groundwater Area of Concern

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve Resolution #2019-20 (CJ2019-99) In the Matter of Declaring Part of Malheur Lake Basin in Harney County Oregon a Groundwater Area of Concern, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

11:00 a.m. Selection and opening of bids for the new Senior Center Bus Barn

The County Court opened two (2) bids received for the new Harney County Senior Center bus barn: 1) CB Construction Inc, La Grande, OR; and 2) Phillip Sitz Construction Inc., Hines, OR. The bids were given to Angela Lamborn to review and advise the Court regarding her recommendation.

Letter of Interest and consideration to serve on the Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) for Harney County and Review of Bylaws

The County Court reviewed, edited, and discussed the NRAC Bylaws. Commissioner Owens will continue to make changes to the Bylaws for further discussion and approval. Commissioner Owens will contact applicant, Cam Swisher, regarding desired position on the committee.

Review of Water Use Requests

Commissioner Owens discussed the Water Use Requests

Correspondence

USDA Forest Service Malheur National Forest – Considering a two day training session for potentially future purchasers/contractors.

Scheduling

County Court Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

***Tuesday, August 20, 2019**

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Late Items

Letter to the People of Harney County dated July 3, 2019

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve and sign the letter to the People of Harney County dated July 3, 2019, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. The letter from the Harney County Court to the people of Harney County explains the recent financial shortfall and discusses the steps the Court has taken/will take to address it. The original letter was given to Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald, for publication in the paper.

Legislative Update

Commissioner Dorroh discussed an AOC e-mail regarding legislative updates.

Deliberation by the Court (no decisions will be made)

For the Record

Adjournment

There being no further business, County Court adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk