



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

October 16, 2019

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also in attendance were Tammy Johnston, Clerk's Office; Eric Drushella, Road Department; Chris Nisbet, Sheriff's Office; Jody McLean and Dee Dee Henry, Home Health & Hospice; Tim Colahan, County Counsel; Brandon McMullen, Planning Department; and Bobbi Jo Heany, Treasurer.

Public attending was Rick Paul, Mark Creighton, Herb Vloedman, Lynn McClintock, Representative Lynn Findley; Jon Reponen, Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald; Mike Simpson, Training & Employment Consortium; D. Rei Wi, DEQ; and Gerard LaBrecque, Joseph's Juniper.

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 October 2, 2019, County Court session and Commissioner Owens seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Lynn McClintock asked if the County Court had a strategic plan to address the budget challenges. She also asked if the Court anticipates any litigation regarding the Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance (SASO), and if there would be any financial burden to

the County if this was to occur. Commissioner Owens explained the ordinance would be referred to a vote of the people and not an ordinance that the County Court would be approving. If there was a protest of the ordinance, it would be up to the Circuit Court to make determinations of constitutionality. The Court again explained the County is not in any financial trouble but needs to balance revenues and expenses. The services that needed to be cut this year were to balance revenues and expenses, and should have been done in previous years' budgets to be fiscally responsible. To reiterate, the County is not \$2.3 million in debt, the County Court's goal is to balance revenues and expenses. Judge Runnels discussed establishing 1-, 3-, 5-, and 10-year financial strategic plans with the help of a professional consultant. The cost to provide County services increases every year at a rate higher than revenue so strategic planning is important to the Court.

Mark Creighton thanked the Court for the information he received regarding some of his concerns.

Herb Vloedman asked the Court about the 911 Fund comments made during the October 2, 2019, County Court meeting. For a period of time, other agencies in Harney County were not being billed for 911 services. He also requested information regarding County spending. The Court is working through every department to see how spending increased during the 5-year period so we can understand the increases from 2013-2019. This information will be provided to the Burns Times-Herald. For 5 years, the County provided services over average revenue and the County has now taken services to a level matching annual revenue.

Old Business

Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-87 Establishing Video Taping of County Court Meetings of Harney County

Commissioner Owens made motion to approve Ordinance #2019-87 Establishing Video Taping of County Court Meetings of Harney County second reading by title only, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

10:00-10:30 a.m. Lynn Findley Update

Representative Lynn Findley gave an update of the 2019 legislative session. Topics of discussion included 1) Committee Assignments, 2) session accomplishments, 3) session recap of bills, and 4) tax surplus of more than \$1.6 billion which will be returned to the taxpayers as a credit through 2019 state income tax returns filed in 2020. The County Court discussed three (3) issues of concern for 2020, which included 1) ORS 368.706 expending road fund moneys for certain counties for patrolling, 2) regionalization of predator control, and 3) pilot program for community-based water planning in the basin. Representative Findley also reported he has filed for re-election.

10:55-11:30 am Brandon McMullen, Land Use Hearing-Review of the Harney County Workforce Housing Roadmap 2019 for Inclusion within the Comprehensive Plan

The Court opened the hearing of the Review of the Harney County Workforce Housing Roadmap 2019 for Inclusion within the Comprehensive Plan at 10:55 a.m. Jon Reponen voiced his support of the inclusion of the Roadmap. Brandon McMullen discussed the proposal to acknowledge the importance of the Roadmap by referencing it in the Comprehensive Plan and the recommended text to be added. The Court suggested a change in the language before adding it to the Plan. Upon closing of the hearing, Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve the language provided in the staff report of the Harney County Workforce Housing Roadmap for inclusion within the Comprehensive Plan with changes as discussed, and seconded by Judge Runnels. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously. Brandon McMullen will provide the Court with a draft ordinance at next County Court session.

Ordinance #2019-90 Acceleration of Redemption Period

This agenda item was postponed to a later County Court meeting.

11:00 a.m. Mike Simpson, Special Projects Coordinator OYCC, Training & Employment Consortium

Mike Simpson, Training & Employment Consortium, presented a letter to the Court outlining the OYCC program. Topics of discussion included 1) description of programs, 2) number of individuals served, 3) projects, 4) awards received, and 5) additional pre-employment training. Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve \$12,500.00 to the OYCC Program, and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously. The funding for this program is coming from the Commission on Children and Families fund, not the General Fund.

Home Health & Hospice (HH & H) Discussion

Jodi McLean and Dee Dee Henry, Home Health & Hospice, discussed the future of the Home Health & Hospice program. Their current billing system is going to be obsolete as of January 2020 and there are not available funds to replace it. Jodi expressed her passion and commitment to the Home Health & Hospice but also understands the issues involved in the County funding the program. The Court has been discussing the program with Dan Grigg, CEO, Harney District Hospital (HDH), and will provide requested information to aid in the decision to transfer Home Health & Hospice program to HDH. The Court also would like to lease the building to HDH. Jodi McLean and the Court agreed to move forward with the transfer of HH & H to HDH. Other topics of discussion included cancellation of the HH & H fundraiser gala, staffing, computer software program, and legislature involvement and update of SB 177, 178, and 179. Jodi McLean also provided the Court with a document entitled "Oregon's Rural Patients Deserve Access to Quality Hospice Care."

Resolution #2019-28, In the Matter of Establishing CenturyLink Tax Fund #646 for Potential Refund Credit

Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve Resolution #2019-28 (CJ2019-152) in the Matter of Establishing CenturyLink Tax Fund #646 for Potential Refund Credit, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on the Transient Room Tax

The County Court discussed a County transient room tax. Questions for discussion included: 1) Amount of tax? 6-7%; 2) Will this apply to only unincorporated area of Harney County or will it apply to cities? All areas of Harney County, unincorporated and cities; 3) Has there been an analysis of what revenue collection will be? Commissioner Owens will speak with Lola Johnson, Harney County Chamber of Commerce, City of Hines, and City of Burns, to obtain this data; and 4) When is County thinking of doing this? May 2020 election. County Counsel will help draft the ordinance.

Order approving petition for County Land Sale by the County #1898, #4028, #749, #59309, #36012

Commissioner made a Motion to approve Petition for County Land Sale #1898 (CJ2019-153), #36012 (CJ2019-154), #59309 (CJ2019-157), #749 (CJ2019-155), and #4028 (CJ2019-156). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dorroh and, with no further discussion, carried unanimously.

Review of Water Use Requests

Executive Session may be called under 2017 ORS 192.660 (2) The governing body of a public body may hold an executive session: (a) to consider the employment of a public officer employee, staff member or individual agent.

Executive Session may be called under 2017 ORS 192.660 for the purpose of (2) The governing body of a public body may hold an executive session: (d) To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Correspondence

United States Department of Interior BLM Vale District has issued a decision to implement emergency stabilization actions as a result of lightning caused fire that occurred on public land within the Vale District

Malheur National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions Fall 2019

Scheduling

County Court Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

*Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Late Items

For the Record

Adjournment

County Court recessed into Executive Session at 12:00 p.m. County Court reconvened at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 1:45p.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk