



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

September 18, 2019

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2019. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also in attendance were Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; Erick Drushella, Road Supervisor; and Brandon McMullen, Planning Director.

Public attending was Rhonda Karges, BLM; Samantha White, Burns Times-Herald; and Rick Paul.

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

Public Comment

Rhonda Karges requested information regarding FEMA flood map.

Old Business

**Ordinance 2018-87 Establishing Criminal History Record Check Policies
Concerning Applicants for Employment and Appointing Volunteers**

Judge Runnels discussed revisions to Ordinance #2018-87. Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve Ordinance #2018-87, Establishing Criminal History Record

Check Policies Concerning Applicants for Employment and Appointed Volunteers, first reading to be read by title only, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Josh Giles, Update on Tree Hazard

Agenda item postponed until the next County Court meeting on October 2, 2019.

NRAC Meeting Report from September 17, 2019

Commissioner Owens gave an update on NRAC meeting which took place on September 17, 2019. Being the first meeting, introductions were made and discussion included an action plan for the NRAC. Bill Wilbur was selected as the Chair and George Heinz as the Co-Chair. The meeting will be scheduled monthly, the next meeting will be on October 22, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Harney County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Planning Commission Review of Letters and Appointments

Brandon McMullen, Planning Director, recommended to the Court the re-appointment of Tony Sanchez and Barbara Arnold to the Harney County Planning Commission. Commissioner Owens made Motion to appoint Tony Sanchez and Barbara Arnold to the Harney County Planning Commission, and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Dorroh, Workforce Housing and State Workforce Strategic Plan Update

Commissioner Dorroh gave an update on the Harney County Workforce Road Map 2019 efforts. As of Sept 11th, Commissioner Dorroh has presented the report to the County Court, Harney County Planning Commission, City of Hines and City of Burns city councils, and the Community Response Team. The report sets a target for construction of five new houses each year for five years in order to strengthen the local workforce housing market. The city planning commissions were encouraged to use the road map as a template for review and updates of their comprehensive plans, and city councils were encouraged to consider creating incentives for housing development. There will be a public hearing tonight of the Harney County Planning Commission, where they will consider recommending incorporation of the road map into the Comprehensive Plan as a reference document.

Commissioner Dorroh then briefed highlights from the Oregon Workforce and Talent Development Board Strategic Plan 2020-2021, which was approved by the board on September 13th. Future work includes revisiting the local workforce boards, industry driven certifications, and creation of non-accredited community college courses to meet the needs of the Eastern Oregon workforce. Commissioner Dorroh will attend the Working Together Conference next week in Eugene, Oregon.

Order to Appoint Pool of Members for the Harney County Board of Property Tax Appeals

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the Order in the Matter of Appointing a Pool of Members for the Harney County Board of Property Tax Appeals (CJ2019-42), and seconded by Commissioner Owens. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Water Use Requests

Correspondence

None

Scheduling

County Court Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Set November Date for County Court:

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

*Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Set January 2020 Date for County Court:

*Wednesday, January 8 and 22, 2020

Budget Committee Schedule Change:

*Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 9a

Set Rural Meetings:

Drewsey, October 9 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Riley, October 15, 2019, 530-7p

Late Items

Employee Recognition

Dan Jenkins, HCSO, 5 years

Angie Lamborn, Harney County Senior Center, 10 years

Chris Nisbet, HCSO, 10 years

Lucas McLain, HCSO, 15 years

Application for Approval to Install a Culvert And/Or Approach from a County Road, Jason Yob

Eric Drushella discussed the application submitted by Jason Yob, Depcom Power Inc., to make improvements to a cattle guard. Commissioner Owens made a Motion to approve the application by Depcom Power Inc. (CJ2019-143), and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

West Nile Update

Judge Runnels read for the Court a press release regarding confirmed cases of the West Nile virus.

Harney County Sheriff Appointment

The County Court discussed the appointment process for replacing Harney County Sheriff Ward on January 2, 2020. Discussion centered around going with an interim Sheriff that would not be running in the General Election in 2020 versus appointing an individual that will be running. The thought process is to allow for a fair election where one person has not been appointed by the County Court thus giving that individual any type of endorsement. The Court opted to go with an interim. Judge Runnels will begin the process.

Ordinance regarding Video Recording and Posting of County Court Meetings

Judge Runnels is still reviewing the ordinance with the help of County Counsel, Dag Robinson, and Jeremy Pointere. The Ordinance will be ready for first reading on October 2, 2019, followed by second reading on October 16, 2019. The first video recording should begin on November 6, 2019.

Commissioner Owens, 2019 NACo Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Fly-In, September 10-12, 2019, Washington DC

Commissioner Owens gave the Court an update on his recent trip to Washington D.C 2019. There were several opportunities that Commissioner Owens took advantage of on his trip, White House meetings, NACO PILT Fly-In, EOCA meetings, Harney County issue meeting with Oregon delegation. Commissioner Owens set up meeting for EOCA that included DOI, BLM, NOAA, Karen Bud Fallen, Walden, Merkley, Wyden. Items that were discussed Forest plan, access, TMP, Lands with wilderness characteristics, ESA, PILT adjustment, among other issues.

Commissioner Owens has been working hard to build good connections back in D.C which is vitally important to decisions that take place back in Harney County. He has become known to those in Washington DC, and they are beginning to know our issues and how to work with us.

Deliberation by the Court (no decisions will be made)

For the Record

Adjournment

There being no further business, County Court adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston
Deputy Clerk