



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

***February 19, 2020***

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Kristen Shelman. Also attending the session were Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; Eric Drushella, Roadmaster; Derrin Robinson, County Clerk; and Bobbi Jo Heany, Treasurer.

Public attending: Herb Vloedman, Casey Shelman, Ivan Shelman, Mary Ausmus, Gretchen Bates, Lynn McClintock, Tara Thissell, BLM; Randy Parks, Burns Times-Herald; Dr. Dana Young, TVCC; Eddie Alves, TVCC; Rob Sharp, BLM; Lisa Grant, BLM; and Dan Grigg, Harney District Hospital.

**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 February 5, 2020, County Court session and Commissioner Shelman seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Herb Vloedman discussed the Harney County Home Health and Hospice situation and the possible closure date of October 2019, as reported in the Burns Times-Herald. He was concerned for the current hospice patients and the additional strain it places on them, not knowing if they will have services after October. Judge Runnels reported that the funding of Home Health and Hospice is currently an unresolved issue. He also

asked a question regarding the budget and if there was a line item in the present budget to replenish any of the reserves that were used to get through the last fiscal year. Judge Runnels responded that this was not addressed in the current budget but it is the intent of the Court to start rebuilding the reserves in the next budget cycle.

Lynn McClintock responded to Herb Vloedman's comment regarding Home Health and Hospice, as a current Hospice volunteer. The program is still taking patients, staffing may have been decreased from 3 nurses to 2.5, but patients are still being assigned a volunteer if they want one. Judge Runnels commented that it is still "business as usual" but the Court is thinking about it every day and recognizes how it weighs heavily on the current patients and the community.

## **Old Business**

### **Ordinance #2020-01, Second Reading In the Matter of an Ordinance Implementing the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) within Harney County; Providing Administrative Procedure for Collection, Refunds and Enforcement; Establishing Penalties; and Providing for an Allocation of the Funds Dedicated to Tourism Promotion and County Services**

Commission Dorroh made a Motion to approve Ordinance #2020-01 In the Matter of an Ordinance Implementing the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) within Harney County; Providing Administrative Procedure for Collection, Refunds and Enforcement; Establishing Penalties; and Providing for an Allocation of the Funds Dedicated to Tourism Promotion and County Services, second reading by title only (**CJ2020-43, 2020-0203**), and seconded by Commissioner Shelman. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **Court Order in the Matter of Appointing of Harney County Commissioner, Position #1, to fill a vacancy**

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion approving the Court Order in the matter of the appointment of Kristen Shelman, Harney County Commissioner, Position #1 to fill a vacancy (CJ2020-40), and seconded by Judge Runnels. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Shelman was sworn into office by Derrin Robinson, Harney County Clerk, and completed the Certificate of Appointment and Oath of Office (**CJ2020-41**).

### **SB1530 Order Proclaiming Opposition of Senate Bill (SB) 1530**

Commissioner Dorroh discussed Senate Bill 1530 and read the proposed Order. Commissioner Dorroh made Motion to approve the Order In the Matter of Proclaiming Harney County's Opposition to Senate Bill 1530: an Act Relating to Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and seconded by Commissioner Shelman. With no further discussion, the Carried unanimously. The Court expressed their support in addressing climate change but opposes SB 1530.

Commissioner Dorroh also presented a letter of opposition to Senate Bill 1530 from the Harney County Court and addressed to the Senate Environment and Natural Resource Committee: Senator Michael Dembrow, Senator Floyd Prozanski, Senator Arnie Roblan, Senator Lynn Findley, and Alan Olsen. Commissioner Shelman made a Motion to approve the letter of opposition to SB1530 (**CJ2020-44**), and seconded by Judge Runnels. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

### **Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) Contract Update Presentation with Harney County**

Dr. Dana Young, TVCC President, and Eddie Alls, TVCC Vice President of Academic Affairs, addressed the Court to discuss TVCC and the contract out of district education services that they provide in Harney County. Topics of discussion included: 1) TVCC staffing in Burns including Misti Porter-McCanna (TVCC representative in Harney County/Burns Center) and Andrea Letham (TVCC/SBDC Harney County Business Advisor); 2) technology updates including high speed internet, and goals to upgrade computers, provide Wi-Fi, link into TVCC SMART classrooms, and offer live classes; 3) enrollment information; and 4) education services such as medical, plumbing, GED services, SBDC (Small Business Development Center) Advisory Group, and wildland fire.

### **Harney County Timber Unity Resolution**

Gretchen Bates, Chair of the Harney County Republican Central Committee, presented the County with their Resolution #2020-1, Support of Timber Unity Organization, adopted January 2, 2020. She asked the Court to consider adopting a Resolution in support of Timber Unity. Judge Runnels will draft a Harney County Resolution in support of the organization Timber Unity and present it at the next County Court meeting.

## **Rob Sharp and Lisa Grant, 2020-2021 National Wild Horse Gather Schedule**

Rob Sharp and Lisa Grant, BLM, gave an update on the BLM wild horse and burro population statistics, and the 2020 National gather schedule. Topics of discussion included: 1) AMLs (appropriate management levels) for each herd management areas in Oregon, the total high AML for the program is 26,690 animals and as of March 1, 2019, the total estimated on-range population was 88,090 animals (Fall of 2018 was the last time Oregon had a wild horse gather); 2) 2020 gather schedule of 10,000-11,000 animals in only 3 states (UT, WY, NV); and 3) environmental and economic impacts. Judge Runnels and Commissioner Dorroh requested information from Rob and Lisa regarding their concerns and they will voice these issues during the NACo Conference in Washington DC, February 29-March 4, 2020.

## **Audit Contract Discussion**

Judge Runnels discussed the current audit contract. Summer 2019, the County put out a request for proposal (RFP) for audit services and received only one (1) proposal from Oster Professional Group and a contract was completed. On December 31, 2019, an e-mail was received from Oster stating the current audit (2018/2019) would not be completed by year end (Oster has requested two (2) extension from the State of Oregon, and, as of today, the audit has not been completed) and they would be discontinuing their auditing services to Harney County. The most recent contract for auditing services with Oster is \$28,181.00 (first year) and \$29,320.00 (third year). Judge Runnels and Bobbi Jo Heany, Harney County Treasurer, researched other auditing resources and receiving proposals from two (2) organizations: 1) Solutions CPAs, John Day, Oregon, \$34,890.00, and 2) Zwygart John & Associates CPAs, Nampa, Idaho, \$26,000.00. After some discussion, Bobbi Jo will contact Zwygart John & Associates to clarify the total of their quote for audit services, Commission Dorroh and Commission Shelman will review the proposals, and a decision will be made at the next County Court meeting.

## **Review of Water Use Requests, January and February 2020**

### **Correspondence**

US Department of the Interior; Updating of regulations for grazing (43 CFR 4100), exclusive of Alaska USDA Forest Service, Emigrant Creek Ranger District – Loco Wildfire Resilience project area reduce and remove hazardous fuels.

USDA Forest Service Emigrant Creek Ranger District, proposed reduction and removal of hazardous fuels in the Loco Wildfire Resilience project area.

### **Scheduling**

County Court Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Thursday, March 26, 2020

### **Late Items**

#### **Harney County Fair Board**

Commissioner Dorroh made Motion to appoint Charity Wensenk to the Harney County Fair Board, and seconded by Commissioner Shelman. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Letter of Support for BioDynamics**

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to sign the letter to Nancy Swofford, Permit Coordinator, in support of BioDynamics LLC's air quality permit request, and seconded by Commissioner Shelman. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

#### **2020 Harney County Court Committee and Board Assignments**

County Court discussed the 2020 Harney County Court Committee and Board Assignments.

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

#### **For the Record**

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business, County Court adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tammy Johnston*

Deputy Clerk