



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

**February 5, 2020**

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels and Commissioner Patty Dorroh. Also in attendance were Kerry Opie, Administrative Assistant, Eric Drushella, Road Dept., Paul Gray & Suzanne Settle, Emergency Management, Jolene Cawfield, Harney County Health Department, Shana Withee, Melissa Woodbury, and Becky Swindlehurst, OSU Extension, Tara Thissel, BLM, and Catherine White, Harney County Health Districtn

Public attending were Rick Paul, George Heinz, Kristen Shelman, Vern Brown, Sr. Gretchen Bates

**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 January 22, 2020, County Court session and Judge Runnels seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Vicky Clemens, AJ Swartzlander, and Darrel Smith, were awarded 5-year pin recognizing their years of service to Harney County.

Gretchen Bates commented on the Republican Party Facebook Page which was made to foster communication regarding efforts for a Harney County 2nd Amendment

Sanctuary Ordinance. Commissioner Dorroh said that it's her understanding that a new 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance document was presented to the Harney County Clerk's Office by Tim Smith on February 04, 2020.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business**

1) Resolution 2020-03 GF Juvenile Personnel Appropriations

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve Resolution 2020-03 GF Juvenile Personnel Appropriations, and Judge Runnels seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

2) EOCCO LCAC application

The Court reviewed an application from Noelle Colby Rotell to be appointed to the EOCCO Local Community Advisory Committee (LCAC). Noelle recently replaced Kathy Rementeria as the DHS Community Outreach Coordinator. Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve Noelle Rotell's application for the LCAC Committee, and Judge Runnels seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

3) LC 19 letter Cap & Trade bill SB1530 (conversation only)

Commissioner Dorroh gave an update on LC 19, the Oregon legislative concept that is now Senate Bill SB1530, this session's carbon reduction bill. There have already been several new amendments and a lot of opposition in the past two days. The County Court plans to send a letter in opposition, and will be reviewing and visiting with our State Senator and Representative prior to submission.

4) Jail Inventory Policy – Roxane Ellis

The Jail Inventory Policy is still under revision by Lt. Ellis and Sheriff Jenkins at this time. The policy will be on the agenda at a later date.

5) Suzanne Settle, Emergency Management Advisory Council (DEMAC) (Booklet provided)

Paul Gray, EM Director introduced Suzanne Settle, who is serving in a technical advisory capacity on the DEMAC to address Inclusive Emergency Management for People with Disabilities. Suzanne explained the work involves representing a rural perspective and working within the county making sure people with disabilities are able to be self-reliant, prepared and that EM managers include them in their planning. Suzanne will be going to the legislature and addressing these issues for our disabled population, not just here but all rural counties. Commissioner Dorroh suggested that Suzanne may want to address the Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) in the future.

6) OSU Extension Annual Report

Shana Withee, Melissa Woodbury, and Becky Swindlehurst updated the Court on their work. They provided handouts covering the services they provide to the citizens and children of Harney County. A slide presentation was shown with data, pictures and programs they cover in the community as well as in the schools. The office is open 5 days a week. As an extension liaison for Oregon State University to the county anyone can utilize the knowledge and programs they provide. They assisted the Harney County Fair this past year providing phone coverage and other tasks. By taking this on, it has assisted with helping the County Fair Budget.

#### 7) Gretchen Bates, Republican Party Timber Unity Resolution

Gretchen had planned to provide a Timber Unity Resolution to the Court to consider. The Timber Unity organization advocates against SB1530, the state's proposed carbon reduction legislation and there will be a rally at the state capitol on Feb 6, 2020. Gretchen plans to present it at the next County Court meeting. This will be added to the agenda for February 19, 2020.

#### 8) Coronavirus

Jolene Cawfield, FNP, Public Health Director provided a Coronavirus update. People who feel ill and think they may be contagious should quarantine themselves for 14 days, and contact their primary care physician. Jolene provided a handout with frequently asked questions and answers. The Harney County Public Health Office has taken precautions within their building to isolate any suspected cases. Respiratory isolation rooms are available at the hospital as well. CDC has an information site for coronavirus. Q & A; Pets can catch it from humans.

#### 9) Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) Ordinance

Judge Runnels presented a proposed TLT implementing ordinance to refer to the May ballot. This would add a 6% county lodging tax to both unincorporated and incorporated lodging rates. Burns and Hines already have city TLT taxes. Commissioner Dorroh stated that the budget committee supports this and that it is one of the few tools available to generate some additional revenue with the impact on tourists rather than local residents. The ordinance identifies that the 70% of the revenue (which must go to tourist-related services) go to Fairground maintenance, Library Western History room, and Search & Rescue. The remaining 30% would go to county services and facilities. Judge Runnels will be making courtesy visits to Burns and Hines next week regarding the county's plans.

First reading: February 5, 2020: Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the 2020-01 Transient Lodging Tax Ordinance first reading, Judge Runnels seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

#### 10) Review of Water Use Requests

A few water permit requests that were submitted in the 2013-2014 timeframe were approved by the state. Fewer and fewer pending requests remain to be processed.

#### Correspondence

Water Resources Department Data Collection Schedule

Malheur Forest Emigrant Creek Ranger District

Harney Soil & Water Conservation District, Local Workshop Group Meeting 02/18/2020  
1pm-4pm ESD Building - ESD Harney Soil and Water Conservation meeting workshop  
Commissioner Dorroh will attend.

US Department of Interior – BLM Environment Assessment Kiger & Riddle Mountain  
Herd Management Areas Population Plan

**Scheduling**

County Court Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, February 19, 2020,

March 11, 2020, March 25, 2020.

**Late Items**

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

**For the Record**

**Adjournment**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kerry Opie*

Assistant Deputy Clerk