



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

*January 8, 2020*

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Mark Owens. Also attending the session were Dag Robinson, County Clerk; Bobbi Jo Heany, County Treasurer; Tim Colahan, County Counsel; Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor.

A list of public attending is on file.

**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 December 18th, 2019, County Court session and Commissioner Owens seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Steve Grasty presented a concern regarding the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) Desert Trail, and would like the court to require ONDA to go through the land use process. Commissioner Owens suggested contacting the Executive Director and have a conversation.

Kerry Boggs was present, introduced himself and discussed concerns he has with the sheriff's office. He announced his candidacy for Harney County Sheriff.

Gretchen Bates, announced a Republican Roundup Dinner at the Elks Lodge on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Bates stated it is an opportunity to see various candidates running for federal, state and local office in the upcoming Primary Election.

Chris Holliday, with Treasure Valley Community College Small Business Development Center was present and stated he will be in town today at the Economic Development Office. He said he has identified a local individual to provide an office here in Harney County hopefully.

### **New Business**

County Treasurer, Bobbi Jo Heany presented the court with several budget Resolutions, related to Intra-fund transfers within categories. Mrs. Heany explained Resolution 2020-37 is necessary as the 2019-2020 appropriated budgets for County Indirect Costs and Human Resource Admin was more than anticipated, and requires minor changes in appropriation. After review, Commissioner Dorroh moved to adopt Resolution 2020-37 In the Matter of Intra-fund Transfer of Appropriations Within Categories for Indirect Cost and HR Admin. Commissioner Owens seconded. Commissioner Owens mentioned for the record, these changes are minimal, and amount no greater expense or revenue. The motion carried unanimously (CJ2020-5).

Mrs. Heany reviewed Resolution 2020-38, explaining it is necessary as the 2019-2020 appropriated budget for Harney County Jail Matron/Nurse should have been placed in the Health Service budget. Commissioner Dorroh moved to adopt Resolution 2020-38 In the Matter of Intra-fund Transfer of Appropriations Within Categories for Jail. Commissioner Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously (CJ2020-6).

Judge Runnels mentioned the County Courts and Commissions of Senate District 30 met and appointed Representative Lynn Findley to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Senator Cliff Bentz. He explained this creates a Vacancy in House District 60, so the Courts and Commissions of the House District will meet again, to fill that vacancy. The Republican Precinct Committees will meet January 18<sup>th</sup> to nominate at least 3 persons for that position. Commissioner Owens is seeking that appointment.

Tim Smith was present to discuss a proposed Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance. Mr. Smith provided language that has been developed based on language from one approved for the ballot in Columbia County. He requests the county court refer the Ordinance to the ballot in the May Primary, rather than the 2020 General Election. (a draft of the proposed language is filed with these minutes).

Steve Grasty commented he feels it should be accomplished by the official signature process rather than a referral. He reiterated he is in complete support of the second amendment, but urges the court not set precedent, allowing the public to be more informed by formal process.

Mr. Smith stated it was made clear their initial petition signatures was not a "legal petition", the intent was to show the support was there. He disagreed, and doesn't see the jeopardy for a lawsuit. He explained the difference between the Second Amendment

Preservation Ordinance and the Sanctuary Ordinance. He said this in essence makes it a crime to enforce unconstitutional laws.

County Counsel Tim Colahan explained the difference between the process. Commissioner Owens stated he would like to put it on the County Court agenda, hold hearing on it, and suggested referring it to the ballot.

County Clerk Derrin Robinson suggested from an election administration standpoint, voter turnout would likely be greater if on the ballot in the General Election, rather than the Primary.

Greg Smith and Denise Rose with Harney County Economic Development were present for a quarterly update. The Court expressed thoughts, concerns and condolences to the family in regards to the recent sudden passing of Scott Fairley, Regional Solutions Coordinator. Scott worked for the Governor's office and was a wealth of assistance to Harney County in matters of economic development. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Smith discussed upcoming prospects locally and expressions of interest in doing business in the county. Mr. Smith prefers to not mention details of the interests as to protect the privacy of these investors. Commissioner Owens mentioned including the socio-economic process involved with the Blue Mountain Forest Plan.

The County Court reviewed annual Orders;

- Appointing Budget Officer for 2020-2021
- Designating an Official Newspaper for the Year 2020
- Appointing Justices of the Peace Pro Tempore for 2020
- Appointing a Medical Investigator for 2020
- Appointing a County Health Officer for 2020

Commissioner Owens moved to appoint County Judge Pete Runnels Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Commissioner Dorroh seconded. Commissioner Owens requested Judge Runnels present a fully balanced budget when presenting his budget message at the first Budget Committee meeting, Judge Runnels stated that is his intent. The motion carried unanimously (*CJ2020-7*).

Commissioner Owens moved to designate the Burns Times-Herald as the official newspaper for publication of County matters for 2020. Commissioner Dorroh seconded. The motion carried unanimously (*CJ2020-8*).

Commissioner Dorroh asked if there are always three Justices of the Peace Pro Tempore. The court briefly discussed the merits and reasoning of Judge Clemens' choices to serve as Pro Tempore in her absence. Commissioner Dorroh moved to appoint Judge Kathy Stinnett, John Lamborn and Jane Jones Justices of the Peace Pro Tempore for 2020. Commissioner Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously (*CJ2020-9*).

Commissioner Owens moved to appoint Dr. Sarah Laiosa Medical Investigator for 2020. Judge Runnels seconded the motion carried unanimously (*JC2020-10*).

Commissioner Dorroh moved to appoint Dr. Sarah Laiosa County Health Officer for 2020. Commissioner Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously (CJ2020-11).

The court reviewed notices of water use requests, there were no objections to any requests.

### **Late Items**

Commissioner Owens discussed the possibility of an Ordinance allowing use of ATV's on County roads. The court agreed look into it. Tim Colahan, County Counsel said he would do some research with what other counties have done.

Commissioner Owens asked if businesses that are leasing the county owned incubator industrial buildings, are aware if those businesses sell, the building is not included. Mr. Colahan will review the language in the leases to ensure, but was fairly certain it was clear in the lease agreements.

### **Correspondence**

The court reviewed a notice of meeting coming up regarding the proposed gold mine in Malheur County provided by Barbara Cannady.

The next County Court meeting will be January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Derrin (Dag) Robinson, C.C.C.  
Harney County Clerk