



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

March 11, 2020

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Kristen Shelman. Also attending the session were Tammy Johnston, Deputy Clerk; Jordan Bennett, Harney County Fair; Eric Drushella, Road Department; Tim Colahan, County Counsel; Bobby Jo Heany, Treasurer; Cheryl Hancock and Ramona Revak, Harney County Library; and Jodi McLean and DeeDee Henry, Harney County Home Health & Hospice.

Public attending: Rick Paul, Herb Vloedman, Barbara Cannady, Melodi Molt, Steven Hammond, Andrea Letham, SBDC; Lola Johnson, Harney County Chamber of Commerce; Lynn McClintock, HDPR; Randy Parks, Burns Times Herald; and Chris Siegner and Emily Johnson, Symmetry Care.

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 19, 2020, County Court session and Commissioner Shelman seconded the Motion. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Herb Vloedman discussed the upcoming budget cycle, and said the County needs to have funds set aside to replenish the reserves.

Andrea Leatham, Treasure Valley Community College/Small Business Development Center (TVCC/SBDC) Advisor, introduced herself to the Court. SBDC has expanded to Harney County with business hours of 20-25 hours per week. Some of her duties will be to work with start-ups and businesses, website and marketing assistance, completing business plans, and locating funding. There is no charge for these services. SBDC and Harney County Economic Development will work collaboratively, to find the best match for each business. The SBDC office is temporarily located at the TVCC office at Burns High School but Andrea will also go out in the community to work with clients. Her plan is to come to the County Court meetings on a quarterly basis to give the Court updates.

Lola Johnson, Harney County Chamber of Commerce, discussed the 2020 Candidate Forums, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. The Forums are scheduled for April 21, 23, and 24, 2020, 6:00 p.m., at the Chamber Building. Forums will be held separately for the Harney County Sheriff, Harney County Commissioner, and Circuit Court Judge.

Old Business

Audit Contract Discussion

The Court received two (2) requests for proposal (RFP) for audit services. The Court has reviewed the proposals and Bobby Jo Heany, Treasurer, received further details on the proposals. Bobby Jo contacted Zwygart John and Associates, Nampa, Idaho, regarding their proposed fee of \$26,000.00 and reported this includes travel time, expenses, and communication. She also received favorable referrals from their references and she recommends the Court accept the RFP from Zwygart John and Associates. The second proposal was \$34,890.00 from Solutions CPAs, John Day, Oregon. Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to contract with Zwygart John and Associates for Harney County auditing services (3-year contract), and seconded by Commissioner Shelman. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance #2020-01, Implementing the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) within Harney County

Judge Runnels discussed the miscommunication regarding the process for implementation and imposition of Ordinance #2020-01, Transient Lodging Tax (TLT). The TLT will now be postponed until the November 2020 ballot. Judge Runnels will be scheduling a work session for the local hotel owners to discuss the TLT, tentatively June 2020. Lola Johnson, Harney County Chamber of Commerce, also requested to be included in the work session.

New Business

Resolution #2020-04 Harney County Timber Unity

Commissioner Shelman made a Motion to approve Resolution #2020-04 In the Matter of Support of the Timber Unity Organization (CJ2020-51), and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Lesley Richman, Home Heath & Hospice(HH&H) Fundraising Event

Lesley Richman, Lynn McClintock, and Jodi McLean, Harney County HH&H, discussed the \$50 Raffle-Fundraising Event scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2020, 5-9 p.m. at the Central Hotel, currently still in the planning stages. In addition to the fundraiser, there are other activities HH&H would like to initiate to increase revenue including: 1) education, awareness, and outreach; and 2) outpatient clinics such as foot, ear, wound, and injection clinics. HH&H is also proposing a Working Group to convene which will be composed of key stakeholders in Harney County to identify short-term and long-term solutions for the funding of HH&H.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Relating to Permitting and Inspection of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Judge Runnels discussed the MOA between the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Harney County, and Wheeler County. Additional discussion included staffing, insurance, and administration fees. Judge Runnels made a Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement Relating to Permitting and Inspection of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (CJ2020-48), and seconded by Commissioner Dorroh. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Application to Install a Culvert and/or Approach from County Road – Travis & Kelly Singhose

Eric Drushella, Harney County Roadmaster, recommended approval after reviewing the application and speaking with the applicants. There will be one (1) new approach with the two (2) existing approaches. Commissioner Dorroh made Motion to approve the Application for Approval to Install a Culvert And/Or Approach from a County Road (Travis and Kelly Singhose, applicants) (CJ2020-50), and seconded by Commissioner Shelman. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Order for County Owned Land Sale Request (2)

Judge Runnels discussed the Order Approving Petition for County Land Sale #22260 and #R22236. Approval of the Order is postponed in order to complete further research of the parcels by the Court and Eric Drushella, Harney County Roadmaster.

Jesse Barnes, Wheeler County On-Site Services Agreement

Commissioner Dorroh made a Motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement Between Harney County and Wheeler County (Agreement #20-001) (CJ2020-49), and seconded by Commissioner Shelman. With no further discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Hancock, Harney County Library, Children's Library Fines

Cheryl Hancock, Harney County Library Director, discussed the pilot project eliminating fines for children and young adult materials which was postponed after the budget issues. They would like to now move forward with the pilot project. Fines are a barrier to access for people who are in need of library services the most, especially low-income children. Fines don't affect return rates, whether there are fines or not the return rates remain relatively the same. Some parents are reluctant to check out children's books because the overdue fines can be expensive, and people who do have fines are sometimes ashamed to come into the library because they owe fines that they may not be able to pay. Elimination of fines has resulted in more visits to the library and promotes good will in the community. The impact to the library revenue is minimal, less than 1% of the library budget, and approximately 1% if they were to eliminate all fines.

The proposal is to continue to charge for lost items but to re-establish the pilot project to eliminate fees and fines on children's and young adult materials. The Court expressed their support of the pilot project.

Jordan Bennett, Fairgrounds Update on Facility Planning and Maintenance

Jordan Bennett, Harney County Fair Manager, discussed the Harney County Fairgrounds Facility Assessment Phase I (January 2020), market and feasibility study that was funded by Travel Oregon grant, City of Burns, City of Hines, and the Harney County Economic Development fund. The study began October, 2019, with consultants on site to review the facilities and meet with stakeholders. Highlights of the assessment included: 1) facility condition, the only structures that were deemed poor were the livestock barns; 2) event usage, approximately 50% are youth-based events; 3) comparative assessment; 4) stakeholder suggestions; 5) recommendations: a) immediate/short-term (1-2 years), grandstands, water/sewage, RV park, master planning; b) medium (5 years), indoor arena, multi-use building; and c) long-term (10 years), replacing the grandstands. Additional topics included funding opportunities, marketing, and partnership with Hi-Desert Park & Recreation.

11:00 am Emily Johnson & Chris Siegner, Symmetry Care, Behavioral Health Update

Emily Johnson, RN Care Coordinator, Symmetry Care, updated the Court on the Certified Community Behavior Health Clinic (CCBH) Pilot Project established in 2017. Topics of discussion included: 1) CCBHC functions, 2) improvement in services, 3) current staffing, 4) care coordination, 5) tracking outcomes with standardized tools, 6) vision for the future, and 7) collaboration with local health partners. Additional topics included the Symmetry Care Residential Program, cost savings for patient care, care for veterans, telemedicine psychiatric services, and opioid treatment.

Review of Water Use Requests for February and March, 2020

Correspondence

None

Scheduling

County Court Meeting Schedule:

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Budget Meetings:

April 9, 10, 2020, 9a-4p

April 20, 2020 9a-4p

May 13, 2020, 9a-4p

May 27, 2020, 10a-2p (if needed)

Rural Meetings:

April 1, 2020, 5:30-7p, Crane

April 2, 2020, 5:30-7p, Diamond

April 16, 2020, 5:30-7p, Fields

Transient Room Tax meeting on June 10, 2020

Harney County Fair Board Meeting Schedule:

April 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m., Memorial Building, Harney County Fairgrounds

Late Items

Steven Hammond requested assistance and support from the Court regarding grazing permits. Judge Runnels will schedule a work session with the interested parties

Commissioner Dorroh discussed wild horse gather issues with Department of Interior representations while in Washington D.C. at the annual NACo Conference.

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

For the Record

Adjournment

With no further business, County Court adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Johnston

Deputy Clerk