



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

***March 03, 2021***

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Kristen Shelman. Also attending the session was Kerry Opie, Chief Deputy Clerk, Deanna Atwell, Human Resources, Eric Drushella, Road Master and Bryce Mertz, GIS Coordinator via phone.

The Court was Joined by Community Member & Budget Committeeperson Rick Paul.

A list of public attending is on file.

**Work Session 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**Voucher Approval**

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

Commissioner Dorroh asked if the meeting minutes from the previous two County Court sessions were ready for review. The Deputy Clerk assured her they would be ready for the next Court meeting and for County Court approval.

**Public Comment**

Forrest Keady addressed the Court concerning the county commercial building inspections. He stated that the information he was sharing was not new. He is concerned and wanted to raise awareness that the county inspector's consistency and common sense is of utmost importance. There seems to be a disconnect in working in partnership between the local inspector and those who are remodeling

and refurbishing old buildings. He asked the County Court to actively get involved with the planning department to seek fairness and consistency in permitting processes for all commercial building projects, and for a commons sense approach to the complexities and unique aspects of restoring and rejuvenating the old buildings in our county. The overlap with Burns/Hines could be an asset for all relationships involved in this process. Commissioner Dorroh stated as a sitting member of the Oregon Construction Contractors Board she supports being compliant with all aspects of safety, liability, and fair permit, licensing, and inspection processes. We all need to follow the same rules. Conversation continued on examples of different types of inspections and who performs them as well as staff qualifications to conduct them.

Judge Runnels said he will meet with the planning and inspection staff, then follow up with a work session to include the County Court, County Planning Director, County Building Inspector, Dan Brown, Burns City Manager and Kirby Lathom, Hines City Manager.

### **Old Business**

Mosquito and Vector Control Contract: Commissioners Dorroh and Shelman had several questions regarding the changes to the proposed contract, including how the reduced acres and adjusted fees were developed. They asked that a detailed map be provided with the contract before signature. Judge Runnels offered to follow up.

Budget Board Meeting Schedule: Commissioner Dorroh made a motion to approve the budget board meeting schedule or 2021. See approved attachment with requested changes by commissioners.

### **New Business**

Proposed Road Naming Application: The County Court approved the Trout Creek Lane road naming application. Approval was based on its remoteness and how it would strengthen emergency response to that address, if needed. Applicant, not the county, is required to maintain the road.

Fair Board Appointment: Commissioner Shelman made a motion to appoint Pat Horlacher to the Harney County Fair Board, seconded by Judge Runnels, and unanimously passed.

CIS Conference Recap: Judge Runnels and Deanna Atwell, Human Resources Manager, attended the CIS (City County Insurance Service) conference virtually, and shared information on the 2022 insurance costs.

### **Correspondence**

Oregon Water Resource Department Activity Report: No concerns.

**Scheduling**

County Court Meeting Schedule:

Thursday, March 04, 2021 Meeting in Diamond at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 07, 2021

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

**Late Items**

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

The Court noted that the USFS Moppet project correspondence arrived on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, but has a date of January 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Court voiced their disappointment with the BLM rescission of the Hammond grazing permit, due to procedural timing errors on the agency's part, which means that there will be no grazing on that land for another year.

**Adjournment**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Opie, Deputy Clerk