



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

February 03, 2021

The Harney County Court convened in County Court Chamber at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 03, 2021. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, and Commissioner Kristen Shelman. Also attending the session was Derrin Robinson, Harney County Clerk, Eric Drushella, Road Dept. Jim Campbell, Weed Dept. and Jesse Brown, Planning Dept.

The Court was Joined by Community Member & Budget Committee person Rick Paul, Brent Beverly, Rod Otley, David Bohnert and Steve Palmer. By phone was Susan Christensen, GEODC and Denise Rose, Harney County Economic Development.

Work Session 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Voucher Approval

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Commissioner Dorroh moved to approve January 20, 2021 Harney County Court meeting minutes Commissioner Shelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

New Business

Eric Drushella brought a Court Order before the Court for signature addressing the Maintenance program for Paradise Road. The community representation present was in support of the order requesting the county acknowledge this as a public accessible road. This will include road maintenance, snow removal and for local access roads that meet County road specifications. (CJ2021-22)

We can at a later date move to put it into the County Roads system but at this time it is not necessary. At this time, the residents have brought the road to code.

Commissioner Dorroh moved to approve Court Order (CJ2021-22) Harney County Court meeting minutes Commissioner Shelman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Weed Department annual report was shared with the County Court. Jim Campbell and Jesse Brown provided explanation and understanding about the report provided and the changes and the challenges they worked and encountered during the COVID pandemic year. Two of Weed Department employees retired. Handout provided (CJ2021-23)

Commissioner Dorroh recommended Jim Campbell make time to go on the radio and do an informational session with Randy Parks.

Greg Smith shared an idea for the County to implement or at least entertain the idea of a Harney Homes program. The discussion is based on building a house with

\$150,000.00 and then auctioning it off. The County would hold the money for the contractor. Susan Christensen stated, GEODC could be the government entity that holds the money for the contractor rather than the County. The idea is to increase the housing stock in Harney County.

Commissioner Dorroh would like to see a type of home built that doesn't cater to the lower income population but rather middle to upper-level income. We don't want to continue to saturate the county with only low income.

Susan Christensen, GEODC, commended us on our lower-case levels of COVID. Make note, Harney County distributed in the first round \$114,186.00 and out of that Harney County secured 23% of those dollars there were 10 awardees in the second round there were 64 awardees receiving \$339,500 Denise and Andrea are being thanked for all the support and testament to all those who rallied to make this work.

Eastern Oregon Workforce training grant does have money available first come first serve. We should speak with Jim in the weed department to assist with sharing and looking into this granting opportunity. Possibly addressing the department losing two employees.

Scheduling of Community Meetings suggestion from Commissioner Dorroh is to speak to community members to see what works best to get the best outcome. She will reach out to Ramonda Thompson. Reschedule until February 17 County Court meeting to make the decision.

Water Resource Reports- There were no objection to any requests.

Old Business

Commissioner Dorroh suggested we postpone the Elected Officials compensation until the next County Court on February 17, 2021. She requested a copy of the schedule they had and who was previously on the committee. Wasco County had a great way of capturing their minutes and we should look in to getting a copy of them. We need Derrin Robinson to be present. Judge Runnels will follow up on the committee members and bring them to court meeting in February.

The Court received a call from Congressman Bentz's office, to see when a good time to come visit to meet all of the staff and commissioners. (Follow up required)

Adjourn at 11:56 a.m.

