

**Harney County Court Meeting  
May 18, 2011**

→The Harney County Court convened May 18, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Steve Grasty's office. Members attending were, Judge Steven E. Grasty and Commissioners Dan Nichols and Pete Runnels. Also attending were, Eric Drushella, Road Supervisor, Nellie Franklin, Treasurer and County Clerk, Maria Iturriaga.

→Public attending were, Don Munkers, Randy Fulton, Renee' Buermann, Pauline Braymen, Renee' Buermann, Debbie Raney and Mary Ausmus.

→Judge Grasty led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

→Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the May 4, 2011 minutes as mailed. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Financial and statistical reports were reviewed by the court and vouchers approved by their signature.

→Judge Grasty updated the court on the flooding situation. The court has signed a Declaration of Emergency in order to breach Hwy. 20 once again the City of Burns has also signed a Declaration of Emergency. Judge Grasty stated there will be some fill-in on the side of Hwy. 78 and also there is worry about the possibility of losing Fry Lane. He commented there are four or five pumps pumping but not keeping up which is phenomenal. Don Munkers, Burns City Manager informed the court that they will build a berm on Riverside Dr. Mr. Munkers expressed concern over the sewer lagoon with the flooding situation. Judge Grasty commented we had lost ground last night. The sandbagging machine is in town now. It was the consensus of all present that attention needs to be paid throughout the summer in order to identify issues which might have contributed to the flooding issues.

→Renee' Buermann, W.I.N. (Wisdom In Nature) Project Manager was in attendance to request \$3,500 seed money for the W.I.N. project which is a non-partisan Community Sustainability Venture Strengthening and Guarding Lifestyles of Historical Productivists. Ms. Buermann was informed the Budget Board would be meeting Wednesday and this request will be on the agenda.

→Judge Grasty updated the court on the Sage Grouse issue. He advised the court that a meeting with LIT (Local Implementation Team) will be held in Burns at the Community Center on June 2 at 9:00 a.m. to review and recommend changes to the CORE Area maps. Land owners of CORE or low density areas have been notified.

→Judge Grasty updated the court in regards to Harney Behavioral Health, and the conversion to Symmetry Care. He commented there will be weekly meetings and are

making a good solid list of assets, their board met last night for the first time. It was a good meeting with much commitment to the decision of going non-profit.

→Angie Iturbide, Senior Center Director was in attendance to explain the 2011/2013 professional services (transportation) contract. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve Judge Grasty signing of the services contract as presented. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→LaDene Hurd, Human Resource Administrator explained Resolution #2011-05 in the Matter of Extending Workers' Compensation Coverage to volunteers of Harney County. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2011-05 as presented. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→Linda Simmons and Karen Hendrickson of TVCC were in attendance to present the TVCC contract Out of District Memorandum of Understanding for 2011-2012. The cash match amount of 20% of the Harney County budget is \$17,000 required by the State. Judge Grasty made a motion to authorize Judge Grasty to sign the contract as presented with funding of \$17,000 and write a letter to ESD and the Advisory Board requesting to find other funding sources to help fund the program. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→After a brief discussion in regards to an agreement between Harney and Deschutes Counties for "A" level, Residential Building Inspections and Plan Review Services, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement, No.2011-265 as presented. Commissioner Runnels seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→There was no Public Notice of Water Use Requests for Harney County from Oregon Water Resources Department.

→The court reviewed a letter of resignation from Melodi Molt as Fair Board member effectively immediately. Commissioner Runnels made a motion to regretfully accept Melodi Molt resignation. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

→A letter from Oregon Health Authority in response to a letter from Harney County regarding the privatization of Harney Behavioral Health, which will be called Symmetry Care, was reviewed by the court. In the letter it states Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) is preparing the 2011-13 contracts for mental health and addictions prevention and treatment services with Symmetry Care in addition staff are working with Symmetry leadership to assure a smooth transition of Medicaid vendor number in order for billing to continue uninterrupted for Medicaid-eligible clients.

→The court had a conference call with Oregon Emergency Management regarding the flood situation, included in the call were Oregon Military department and Oregon Red Cross. Next update with them will be at 4 p.m.

→The court re-convened at 2:00 p.m. The executive session was canceled for today it will need to be rescheduled.

→There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iturriaga, CCC  
Harney County Clerk