



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

December 16, 2020

The Harney County Court convened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Members attending were Judge Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh and Commissioner Kristen Shelman. Also attending the session was Dag Robinson, County Clerk.

The Telephone Conference line was opened by Judge Runnels.

Voucher Approval

The Court signed approval documents and checks for the regular accounts payable individually in the County Clerk's Office.

Judge Runnels led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Commissioner Dorroh made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2nd, 2020 County Court session. Commissioner Shelman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Judge Runnels expressed gratitude to the community for working to lower the curve in COVID-19 cases here in Harney County. Harney County is now in the "Low-Risk" category for COVID and it is beneficial to the businesses, and the overall health and welfare of the citizens. Judge Runnels stated "Thank you, thank you, thank you." Commissioner Dorroh echoed Judge Runnels gratitude to the community.

Old Business

The Court continued discussion of the Residential Building Incentives Concept. Judge Runnels recognized this will create a slight revenue shortfall in the Building Program, as it is a rebate of building permit fees for residential construction. He suggested an

administrative solution of retaining a small amount of the State-funded COVID Business Grant dollars to cover the costs for this rebate. His thoughts were this should cost the Building Program around \$7,500 a year, and if the County retained \$15,000 in administrative costs from the Grant program dollars it would cover the costs of the Residential Building Incentives rebate for 2 years. The Court will then need to determine the funding source for the remaining 3 years. County Counsel has reviewed the draft resolution regarding the proposal. Commissioner Dorroh moved to approve Resolution 2020-30 In the Matter of Offering Building Plan Incentives to Stimulate New Housing Construction in Harney County. Commissioner Shelman seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (CJ2020-176)

Brandon McMullen, Planning Director; was present to provide the court with an update regarding the bond provided to the County in the case of a decommissioning of a recently approved Cell Tower by AT&T. The approval process requires the applicant to provide a bond to cover any expenses to the County for removal of the tower upon any future decommission. The Court directed Mr. McMullen to refer the bond to County Counsel for review before filing it with the County Clerk.

The Court discussed a Resolution In the Matter of Intra-fund Transfer of Appropriations Within Categories for LCAC Fund # 350. The Court agreed to table the resolution for further information regarding payroll allocations.

Angela Lamborn, Senior and Community Services Director; was present to discuss Transportation program budgeting. She discussed proposed projects and asked for approval of the County Court to participate in these projects as the sponsoring municipality. Commissioner Dorroh moved to approve the projects as proposed and authorize Judge Runnels to sign the agreement on behalf of the County Court. Commissioner Shelman seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (CJ2020-177)

Paul Davis, Owner, Alvord Hot Springs; was present to discuss road conditions on East Steens Road. He said this year visitors have been drawn to Harney County to see the Alvord Desert, Alvord Hot Springs, and the Steens Mountains. He said he averages 19 cars a day at the hot springs, which means 70 cars a day on East Steens Rd. He is asking for a long-term plan for care and maintenance on East Steens Rd. He provided an example of BLM inviting visitors for the area, but not providing for maintenance of the infrastructure. He would like to see all access to the Alvord Lake bed be closed to the public to protect the integrity of the lake bed, for health and safety. He believes he could provide for a managed access solution administered through the Hot Springs. Judge Runnels explained he is working with ODOT and BLM on solutions to find funding for road repairs.

State Representative Mark Owens was present to provide the Court with a review of legislative proposals he is preparing for the 2021 Legislative Session.

The Court reviewed the Engineer's Estimate for the Fairgrounds RV Park. Judge Runnels wished to research additional funding solutions, and the court would discuss the project again at the next court session in January. (CJ2020-179)

The Court held a work session with Oregon State University Extension Service at 1:15 p.m., no action was taken.

The Court adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derrin Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Derrin Robinson, C.C.C.
Harney County Clerk