

LETTERS

Continued from page 20

Cloverdale Road being constructed, when the foundation was built and then torn out I asked what happened, I was told due to ADA restrictions and available land the first foundation was not going to work. Had there been proper oversight, this issue should not have been a problem and were it not for generous community members donating time and equipment there would have been a significant cost overrun.

A few years ago, the district purchased a piece of equipment for \$100,000. In the current budget that unit is to be surplused and re-sold for something between \$50,000 and \$80,000. For a district the size of Cloverdale to take even a \$20,000 loss in only two or three years, to me, is quite concerning.

Following the passage of the bond measure, the board approved the spending of \$800,000 for new engines without actually knowing what the specifications of those engines would be. I attended the most recent board meeting in which the plans for the new facilities were presented to the board for the first time — and approved within 20 minutes of being presented. I have been involved in hundreds of construction projects over the years and can tell you the speed with which these plans were approved is unheard of.

The volunteers and the constituents deserve thoughtful consideration, critical thinking and vigorous discussion when significant financial decisions are made. I don't believe that is currently the case and would urge you to check into it for yourself. If elected I will assist in providing those things to the process to ensure the best, most appropriate decisions are made going forward.

Rob Malone

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To the Editor:

As a former decade-long director of the Cloverdale Fire District, I have the utmost respect for the members and volunteers of the district. A volunteer fire district is difficult to staff, and Cloverdale has managed to accomplish that for decades through the dedication of the men and women of the district. I also believe the chief has done a good job of managing the daily operations of the district and brought forward many needed changes during

his tenure as chief.

That said, the district is facing a challenge that it has not previously undertaken and I'm afraid the lack of experience is showing. As the residents of the district know, a bond was recently passed for \$2.475 million to do significant upgrades and improvements to facilities and apparatus. Managing those funds and improvement projects will be a significant task. The strain has already shown itself through lack of oversight and mismanagement.

Questions: Why is the Sisters Rodeo Association willing to spend money to move and salvage a structure that Cloverdale Fire District was not willing to salvage? Why did the new building foundation of Station 602 have to be torn out and re-poured, likely at taxpayer expense? Why are new engines being purchased, while a newly purchased engine is being surplused at a likely \$50,000 loss.

A truly functional board of directors employs group process to make better decisions. The board thrives on difference of opinion and takes in information from many different sources and life experiences to arrive at a better decision than individuals can make on their own. For the first time in a number of years the voters have a choice of candidates willing to offer their experience and opinion to help create a more well-rounded board.

I would encourage the voters not to vote for specific candidates, but to talk to the incumbents and candidates and ask how we got to where we are now; what do they plan to do to keep the district on track; and who is watching the \$2.745 million (plus 20 years of interest) to assure that it is wisely spent.

Todd Williver

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Local bikeway may lose designation

The Metolius Loops Scenic Bikeway may lose its designation because it conflicts with the Wild & Scenic designation for the Metolius River. However, the route will remain open to bicycling, even if it's not a designated scenic bikeway.

According to Alexandra Phillips, bicycle recreation specialist with the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, "the process to get to removing the designation started with many meetings (in person and calls) with the Forest Service, Camp Sherman businesses owners, Friends of the Metolius, residents of Camp Sherman and the local bikeway proponents all trying to find a way for the bikeway designation, with its promotion goals to live comfortably and happily with the Wild and Scenic Corridor Plan written by the Forest Service which was based on

public comment that discourages promotion and does not allow for video permits."

The public can comment through May 18 at Oprd.publiccomment@oregon.gov.

The State Parks and Recreation Department director will make a recommendation to the commission and the State Parks Commission will hold a vote on removing the designation June 24.

The Metolius Wild and Scenic plan calls for protecting these important values by reducing congestion, considering the primitive experience, and not permitting commercial entities to promote the area to draw visitors.

Designated scenic bikeways have proven very popular. They promote visits to an area and draw many cyclists, which conflicts with the values laid out in the older (1998) Metolius River plan.

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