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Rural parceling decisions may violate land-use laws

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

The county's three new commissioners have ended their grace period and must now start making the hard decisions of land-use planning, said Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust Thursday.

Rust told reporters that recent decisions by the board and its new members, Vance Freeman of Springfield, Otto t'Hooft from east Lane County and Harold Rutherford from west Lane County, may be in violation of state and county land-use planning laws. Those decisions involved rezoning and splitting rural land parcels.

If those decisions persist, it may be necessary to ask the state Land Conservation and Development Commission to intervene to protect the county's rural land, Rust said.

Rust's criticism centered on the parceling of rural land around the county for new tax lots and subdivisions. The attitude of the new board, he said, seems to encourage "a quick profit" in land speculation, by allowing land owners to divide their land into small parcels for easy sale.

The county now has a 20-acre limit to land parcel sales. Although that limit conforms to LCDC regulations, some commissioners have consistently voted for smaller parcels.

The county also has been challenged on several land limitation decisions in the past, Rust said. Earlier this week three more challenges were filed that could cost county taxpayers several thousand dollars to fight legally, he explained.

The public may not be aware of the problems involved in land use planning, Rust said, because they haven't surfaced until recently.



Emerald Photo

County Commissioner Jerry Rust

Because of his stand on preserving rural land, Rust has found himself on the losing end of several four-to-one votes. But he said that he doesn't mean he can't work with the new commissioners.

"That vote usually only occurs on land use planning issues. I like the new board. I admire them. I don't agree with them on all the issues, though.

"Unfortunately, 90 percent of a county commissioner's work is to deal with land use planning."

Restricted budget guideline, slices \$568 from ESCAPE

ESCAPE budget cuts by the Incidental Fee Committee triggered emotional responses from ESCAPE supporters during a budget hearing Thursday night.

The largest cut, sliced from ESCAPE's publicity request, was attacked by Judy Sanders, ESCAPE's faculty adviser. Sanders said ESCAPE needs more money for publicity "because the population on campus is not the volunteer type; students are more interested in getting jobs."

Jackie Stearns, the current recruitment director, said "it's an insane effort to (try and) get enough people in our programs."

Debate focused on the IFC's proposal to reduce printing and duplication funds used to provide orientation materials for ESCAPE students.

Dusty Rhodes, IFC member, said "no way in heaven" should the IFC fund the manuals.

Another IFC member, Kevin Chambers, agreed. "The IFC is faced with making a \$140,000 cut in budgets. It's a hard-bitten reality we have to deal with."

But ESCAPE director Kelly Nakoa argued that ESCAPE had already cut \$15,000 in other areas to allow them to provide the manuals at no cost. "You're not respecting our priorities," Sanders said. "Let us cut our budget the way we want to."

The IFC voted 4-3 to allocate a printing and duplication budget for printing of ESCAPE instruction manuals. They approved a budget of \$16,746, \$568 less than the 1978-79 budget.

The IFC approved \$8,200 for Forensics Club travel expenses, but turned down a club request for funding a director's salary and tournament awards.

A \$2,345 budget for the People from the Oregon Coast program was also approved.

ask the sexpert

This column is written weekly by Patti Van Metre and Anna-Lisa Robbert of Lane County Planned Parenthood. Send questions to the Emerald, 300 EMU, or to Planned Parenthood, 134 E. 13th Ave., Eugene.

Q. When a woman has an induced abortion, what is the chance of becoming barren? If this woman has regular menstruation and the Rubin test shows she has no problems in her oviducts, is it possible for her to become pregnant if her husband's sex organ is normal?

A. If a woman has had a legal, first trimester abortion and now cannot conceive, it's probably due to a condition that existed before the operation. There are conflicting reports about the effects of an abortion, but it seldom causes infertility. It's more likely to affect future pregnancies by increasing the chances of a premature or lowbirth weight baby. However, even that is unlikely unless you have two or more abortions.

A childless marriage is seldom the fault of husband or wife alone. Often factors involving both of them are present that prevent conception.

There are things besides blocked oviducts that can reduce a woman's fertility. (Call Planned

Parenthood at 344-1611 for a list of physicians who specialize in infertility diagnosis). If the husband has a problem, there is no way of telling just by looking at him. His external sex organs will look normal even if he's infertile. He should see the doctor, too.

Finally, Are you worrying too soon? Many couples take more than a year to conceive.

Q. A friend of mine doesn't use birth control because she says she and her partner don't have sex "very often," and she feels she is not likely to get pregnant. Do you have any statistics on this?

A. Your friend needs your advice, use birth control if you're sexually involved and want to avoid an unwanted pregnancy. Having sex less often reduces the chances of pregnancy, but doesn't totally erase the possibility, especially if the sex act occurs during the fertile time of the month — midcycle. There aren't many statistics on the possibility of becoming pregnant with infrequent intercourse (since you haven't defined how frequent "infrequent" is) but if 100 couples have sex for a year without using birth control, approximately 80 of the women will become pregnant within a year.