

Business / Agriculture

Geiser Grand to expand

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It's anticipated that the entire project will total more than two million dollars. Sidway said, "We will look forward to sharing the details on the project with the community when plans develop."

But even now you can see that work is proceeding. If you look over at the building when driving down Resort Street, you'll see a dozen highly skilled masons working

on rebuilding the damaged brick common walls. "We hope that is just the beginning of the jobs, direct and indirect, that this project will generate for the community," said Sidway.

Oregon Heritage, a division of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, awarded 28 matching grants worth \$2,455,700 to Oregon Main Street Network organizations across the state for building projects that encourage economic revitalization.

Projects range from façade improvement to

elevator access and seismic upgrades and awards range from \$17,500-\$100,000.

The department funded projects that best conveyed the ability to stimulate private investment and local economic development, and best fit within the community's long range plan for downtown vitality.

The grant program was created during the 2015 legislative session, and placed with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

The legislation established a permanent fund

for the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant, and provided an initial infusion of funds from the sale of lottery bonds.

The funds must be used to award grants to participating Oregon Main Street Network organizations to acquire, rehabilitate or construct buildings to facilitate community revitalization.

The program also requires that at least 50 percent of the funds go to rural communities as defined in the bill.

911 Board holds 'emergency' meeting over budget

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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On Friday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. members of the 911 Board were asked to attend what County Commission Chair Bill Harvey coined an "emergency" meeting at City Hall.

In attendance with Harvey were City Manager Fred Warner, Mayor Mike Downing, 911 Board member Debi Dugan, 911 Board member Rob Gentilli and 911 Director Hope Lindsey.

Lindsey, who has been at the helm of the 911 center since February 2016, recently submitted her resignation.

Harvey made clear that Lindsey had requested this meeting.

Lindsey claimed to have received the proposed 911 Center budget on Wednesday May 3, 2017 following the County Commissions meeting and upon review she says it will leave the center "inoperable next year. They will not be able to function with the recommended funding."

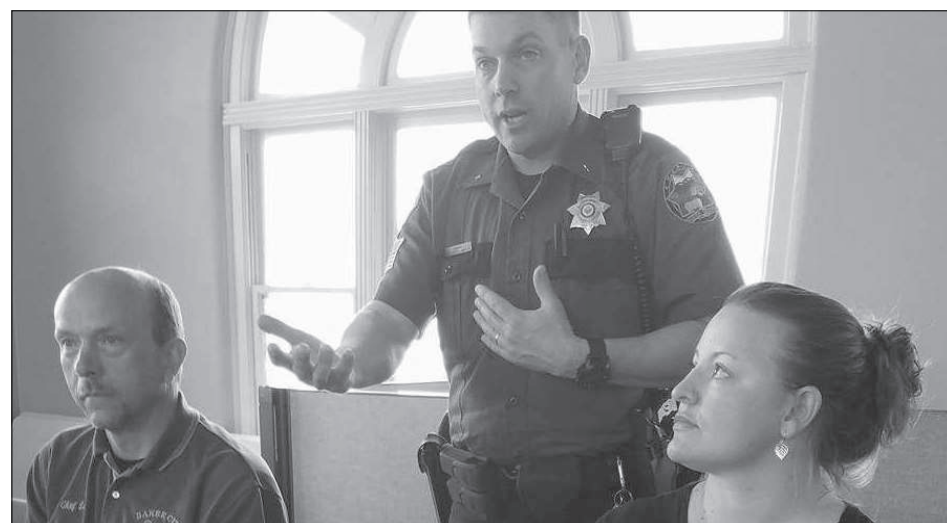
Lindsey expressed with her resignation effective Friday, May 12, she wanted to try and resolve some of the issues before her departure. "As a board, we have had two meetings scheduled to discuss the budget and we haven't done that at either of them," she said.

Harvey told the Board that he and Lindsey had met the day before to discuss the matter. He told the Board and Lindsey that he "tried several times to work with your schedule to find time to meet and go over everything—" but until this week had been unsuccessful. He also added that Christena Cook, Baker County Administrative Director had helped Lindsey quite a bit and posed the question to Lindsey, "Is that not true?"

Lindsey acknowledged that indeed was the case but she had had questions about some of the things she was expected to do and had emailed Harvey and Cook telling Harvey, "I did not get a response from you right away and Christena said, 'Just balance it.'"

Lindsey advised that she had copies of all those emails if needed.

Harvey responded by saying he had not answered her right away due to other meetings he had been in at the time. He also said that he knew Lindsey was unfamiliar with the County's budget process and that the County had



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

L-R: Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner, Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, Dispatcher Mandy Wirth.

reached a point where they had asked her to "finish it up, you did the best you could with it."

He then stated that the commissioners and budget board did what they could with it but did have to adjust things to make it balance.

He advised the County had their first half day budget meeting with the board and commissioners that Wednesday, May 3 and the next was set for May 31st.

Harvey asked Warner when the City's budget meetings were set as the City funds the 911 center as well and would need that final number when deciding on the allocated funds in their budget.

Lindsey spoke up saying she felt it was the Board's job was to come up with the budget, "to give the director and the Center guidelines for what expectations are."

Harvey noted that another 911 meeting was set for May 12 and that was what that meeting would be used for, the meeting that day could not be used to go through the budget line by line.

Lindsey asked, "Why not?"

Harvey explained that all the information was not before those present.

Lindsey said she had brought information for all and claimed that in two prior meetings it had been on the agenda to have budget discussions, but Harvey had said they would not be discussing the budget prior to both meetings.

"At what point will we discuss it?" she asked.

Harvey responded, "Right now."

City Manager Fred Warner, Jr. then added, "I just think since we're here and it's a 911 Board meeting, I would like to make sure what is in the budget is what fits the City's dollar figure. We'll have our budget done before the

County."

Lindsey added, "Well this is just to make recommendations so you can make informed decisions. I don't understand why you're refusing to talk about it."

Harvey advised that the May 12 meeting would begin with an executive session and would include discussions that could not be done in a public hearing such as employees and employee contracts.

Lindsey argued that the meeting was for expenditures.

Harvey disagreed because he felt part of expenditures could include personnel.

The group did go through the proposed budget rather quickly line by line where Lindsey did note areas that the budget could be cut such as office supplies or where money had been allotted in the previous year's budget to replace some equipment or computers and that amount was again placed in this proposed budget unnecessarily and could be removed.

The budget for training caused some discussion.

In order for 911 dispatchers to remain active, ongoing training is required to keep their certification.

Cuts to that budget were of grave concern. Simply put, in order to operate, the 911 center needs dispatchers. In order to be a dispatcher certain requirements must be met, including mandatory training hours.

Lindsey did suggest that one way to possibly trim the required budget was to take advantage of online trainings rather than send personnel to trainings usually held on the other side of the state incurring gas, food and lodging costs in addition to the cost of the training.

Baker Police Chief Wyn Lohner was present at the meeting and spoke up

saying, "Online training sounds all well and good but in reality the time to do it is often a problem and I've found it to be sort of ineffectual."

Dispatcher Jessica Lynch was also present and told the Board that she and other dispatchers in the 911 Center have paid for trainings out of their own pockets before because the budget isn't there and they have to maintain their certification to remain employed.

Making sure the budget for training dollars is sufficient is a priority for those employed by the 911 Center.

Lynch also asked the board what the plan was to replace Lindsey as several 911 Center employees were at the meeting and concerned about the future there.

Harvey advised that nothing had yet been done to decide the direction of the 911 Center.

Chief Lohner and Sheriff Travis Ash informed the group that in an effort to "trim the budget" and save money they felt that perhaps the 911 center should temporarily return to being under the direction of the Sheriff and promote someone currently within the 911 center to serve as the head.

By doing so the Sheriff's Office could possibly share in the costs.

There have been rumblings of creating a special district to fund EMS/911 services that Ash and Lohner confirmed they are working toward getting on a ballot in the not too distant future.

Board member Debi Dugan asked Sheriff Ash if there was a way that he could put together a presentation and come before the 911 Board at the meeting on May 12 to delve into the matter further.

Ash agreed to put a presentation /proposal together for that meeting.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, May 5, 2017 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. According to some producers, horse owners prefer lower sugar, higher protein hay. Many producers are sold out for the year.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square Premium / Supreme	50 180.00-180.00	180.00
Two weeks ago:		
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square Premium	6 165.00-165.00	165.00
Timothy Grass — Small Square Premium	10 275.00-275.00	275.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 674

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 172.00-191.00	Top 200.00
400-500#	Bulk 166.00-182.00	Top 184.00
500-600#	Bulk 151.00-171.00	Top 178.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 162.00-183.00	Top 184.00
400-500#	Bulk 153.00-169.00	Top 170.00
500-600#	Bulk 147.00-158.00	Top 165.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 142.00-164.00	Top 168.00
700-800#	Bulk 124.00-141.00	Top 143.00
800-900#	Bulk 121.00-129.00	Top 132.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 125.00-139.00	Top 141.00
700-800#	Bulk 124.00-141.00	Top 142.75
800-900#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	N/A
Butcher Cows	66.00-74.00
Butcher Bulls	N/A
Stock Cows Young	N/A
Hfrets	N/A
Pairs Young -	1285.00-1485.00

ProducersLivestock.com
541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Prices are based on the majority of saw mills in Northeastern Oregon and Central Idaho. The prices listed below are a composite prices of various sawmills willing to visit with me about this topic.

Ponderosa Pine—small diameter class 8-11 inches diameter class \$250 per mbf. Only one sawmill was willing to buy small diameter pine at this time.

Ponderosa Pine—medium diameter class 12-17 inches diameter class \$300 to \$350 per mbf

Ponderosa Pine-large diameter class 18 plus inches diameter class \$380 to \$410 per mbf

The Pine prices are still approximately \$40 per mbf below average lumber/log market due to 2017 fire salvage

Doug Fir & Western Larch—\$380 to \$420 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$425 to \$475 per mbf.

White Fir—\$300 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$340 to \$360 per mbf.

Engelmann Spruce—\$350 at one Idaho sawmill, other sawmills including with White fir prices.

In general, the log prices still impacted from 2015 fire season and fire salvage that resulted. Sawmills are starting to get log yard inventory in line with sawmill production needs. With a new Administration as of 1/20/2017, a more normal economic environment should result and hopefully a more healthy housing situation will result in a better climate for Northeast Oregon Sawmill and private forest landowners.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,
Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,238.50

Silver: \$16.48

Platinum: \$897.39

Palladium: \$799.79

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$374.75/bu/USD

Wheat: \$454.00/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$975.50/bu/USD

Oats: \$238.05 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$9.91/cwt/USD

Canola: \$522.60 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$130.05/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$160.10/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$75.55/lb./USD

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