

Local

Local math teacher awarded

• 2017-2018
BUDGET ADOPTED

BY SAMANTHA
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Tuesday June 13th, the Baker School District 5J Board gave recognition to Vi Isaacs, who has retired as South Baker Professional.

They also recognized Jandy Eskew, presenting her the Oregon Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2017 Area Recognition Award.

Rosemary Abell, the Budget Committee Chair, gave a presentation recommending options for the state budget.

The budget was organized and presented around a state budget of \$7.8 million.

Abell explained that and it looks as if the budget will land around \$8.1 million or \$8.2 million and that brings to the school district an extra \$5,000 to \$6,000, approximately. Abell explained that the money is not sustainable funding and the Budget Committee discussed where the money could go, such as putting it into a project fund.

Doug Dalton the CFO/Business Manager gave a presentation of the 2017-2018 Budget. They discussed Measure 98 as a potential revenue, but they do not know how much it will be.

Dalton explained that he will file for funding requests for their schools and the charter school for in June.

According to the Oregon Department of Education, Measure 98 is The High School Graduation and Career Readiness Act of 2016 and is a 2016 ballot initiative that provides direct funding to school districts to increase high school graduation rates.

Board Chair Kevin Cassidy discussed how libraries are keeping up with technology shifts, and how they look at their business of providing materials. "It's interesting to me when I look at today's world," explained Cassidy. "Of how students take materials in, be it a chrome book or anything like that and, we talk about libraries and I think it's an important space in a school district and a community



Samantha O'Connor / The Baker County Press

Jandy Eskew received the Oregon Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2017 Area Recognition Award.

to have."

Superintendent Mark Witty discussed there are different adjustments they can make to the calendar they had discussed previously. He visited with the staff and they did a vote on three options.

One option is staying where they are at, option two is starting a week later and adding another week in June, and the third option, which is the one they are recommending, is taking Monday and moving it to Friday.

He also discussed reorganizing several areas. For BTI, they are removing the director position and are planning to hire a senior accountant.

He explained that they are anticipating making savings there.

"We are excited about Mr. Peacock going into a different role," said Witty. "And we think there's going to be added value there for BTI and the Baker School District in the long run."

Assistant Superintendent Betty Palmer updated the board on the postponement they helped her make for the science materials last meeting. She received a letter from the State of Oregon their acknowledgement of that and the board has a year to make their decision.

Palmer also discussed that the ODE to try and set

up guidance for the new teachers coming in for the new school year.

She also presented the summer academy updates. They have 159 acknowledged registrations and 23 are on the waiting list.

They are moving furniture from South Baker and Brooklyn to North Baker, where the academy will be held and they are expanding to have 180 to 200 kids.

Dalton discussed the acquisition of property from the church is in progress and there is not a lot to do now, unless they want to do phase one testing. They will be able to make their first payment June 30th and then close the property in July.

Melissa Irvine gave an update on the Baker Valley Education Foundation, explaining that they raised over \$7,000 at their first fundraiser.

After the BVEF meeting, they were energized and they had the momentum to go through the grant application and they were able to give the application to teachers before the schools closed.

Their deadline is in the middle of September and they can do an initial grant release during the first semester.

They will have a larger fundraiser in the fall to show what types of activities they could apply for.

Cassidy discussed the OSBA summer conference happening before next meeting, and the new incoming director Katie Lamb will attend it as well.

The July board meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers. Cassidy discussed changes Long Range Facility Planning has been going through some changes. They have been going through monthly and bi-monthly meetings with the community group. Members have gone on tours of other facilities and they looked at the central building.

He explained that they did not include that facility in their initial plan.

He explained that they are engineering some pieces that they will give to that group so they have that information and everything else they are considering.

The board voted on and approved adopting the BCB Board Officers and they approved adopting the revised calendar.

The Board also approved resolution 17-09, adopting the permanent tax rate, resolution 17-10, 2017-2018 resolution adopting the budget, resolution 17-11, resolution making appropriations, resolution 17-12, establishing policies for fund balance, and 17-13, additional revenue recognition.

County talks about Sumpter Dredge tailings

• UNITY'S BUDGET ADOPTED

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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The Baker County Board of Commissioners held its second, regular session of the month on Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 9 a.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, which, among other topics, included several public hearings, and a Sumpter Dredge tailings discussion.

Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett and Bruce Nichols, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin.

Attendance also included Baker County Planning Director Holly Kerns, Baker County Planner Carson Quam, Baker County Road Master Jeff Smith, Baker County Parks Director Karen Spencer, Ed Hardt, Ken Anderson, John Creighton, Rich and Lori Daniels, Nick Myatt, Rodney Loennig, and Pat Hoffman.

The session was called to order, and Harvey provided the Invocation, and led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was adopted, with a couple of noted changes, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

Citizen Participation included Anderson and Hardt, each one providing significant comment regarding the potential to mine for rare earth metals within the County (the two local miners have been to numerous meetings and events, promoting the positive aspects of mining for decades), including the benefits of adding job opportunities and an economic boost. Hardt said that he and Anderson have extensive experience with gold mining, not with rare earth metals, but that government funding should be offered to develop that process.

The minutes from the Wednesday, June 7, 2017 regular session were approved, with a noted correction, with a motion from Harvey, and a second from Nichols.

A Unity budget hearing was held, which included the announcement from Bennett that the Board was acting as Unity City Council, and a declaration from Nichols of a conflict. The Unity budget, a total of \$171,711, for fiscal year 2017-2018, was adopted, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Harvey, with Nichols abstaining. The appropriations for the Unity budget were also adopted, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Harvey, with Nichols abstaining.

Order No. 2017-133, Designating A Sole Source Provider For Chip Seal Oil For Baker County Road Department, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols. According to the order, Albina Fuel was designated as a sole source provider of HFE-90 chip seal oil, which the County intends to purchase in Fiscal Year 2017-2018, and the oil will be exempt from competitive bidding requirements. Smith discussed the order with the Board, prior to approval, noting the benefits of the chip seal oil and the provider.

Oregon Department Of Transportation (ODOT) Special Transportation Fund (STF) Agreement No. 32163, between ODOT and the County, to provide funding for public transportation to seniors and individuals with disabilities, and the general public in the County, was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols. According to the agreement, the project's budget is \$184,973, which includes \$165,976 in State grant funding, and a local match of \$18,997.

A County Health Department bid, for a new vaccine refrigerator combination unit, to replace the current malfunctioning one, was explained by Bennett (Director Nancy Staten was absent), a request Staten had made to the Board previously. The bid was approved, with a motion from Bennett, and a second from Nichols.

A public hearing was held in the matter of Order No. 2017-134, Authorizing The Sale Of County Owned Parks Identified As Shanghai Creek Park By Private Sale. According to the order, the property, 120.94 acres, is located at Township 8 South, Range 44 East, Tax Lot 500, and it was acquired by the County through delinquent tax foreclosure, per Order No. 97-142. Another piece of property was included in the discussion, Tax Lot 200, 42.5 acres, in the same area.

Spencer and Kerns discussed the matter with the Board, Harvey and Bennett preferred the local foreclosure and sale route with the properties (Harvey said non-locals could find the zoning laws confusing), providing revenue for the Parks Department, and Nichols said that a realtor could be used, to market the properties on a broader scope.

Spencer said she will ask some realtors for proposals, and the matter was continued to the Wednesday, July 5, 2017 regular session, with a motion from Harvey, and a second from Nichols. Myatt, whose family owns Tax Lot 100, stated some issues and confusion he noted with the proposal, including the term "park," and the lack of reports on the overlay designation.

Harvey said it's not a "park," but it's dedicated as such just for the current purpose.

A second public hearing was held in the matter of Ordinance No. 2017-04, Amending The Zoning Map Adopted By Ordinance 84-1, The Comprehensive Plan Adopted By Ordinance No. 2000-04 (Which Readopted Ordinance 83-2), And The Baker County Zoning Ordinance Adopted By Ordinance No. 2014-01, Creating An Overlay To The Timber-Grazing Zone Titled Limited Use Tourist Commercial Overlay (LUTCO) For Tax Lot 400, In Township 07 South, Range 38 East, Section 4C.

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Sumpter Council increases credit card limits, hears department reports

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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Sumpter City Council met on June 13th with Councilors Linda Wise, Samantha Rowan, Robert Armbruster, and Mayor Carey Clarke in attendance.

Minutes from May 9th and May 31st meetings, along with payment of the current bills, were unanimously approved.

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Kurt Clarke reported three EMS calls during the Memorial Day Flea Market. All went well.

Last week, the two structure trucks and the brush truck were tested and

found to be in good working order.

The QRU has new batteries.

The Department is preparing for the eclipse and fire season.

They would like to have a fire information kiosk in town, perhaps at Volunteer Park, where ODF, Forest Service, and City information could all be available in one place.

Clarke asked permission to use the old military truck as a water tender.

The tender holds 1,200 gallons, providing almost 20 minutes of spray time. He also expressed his wish to test the siren at City Hall.

Mayor Clarke suggested in the next Around the

Water Tower letting people know the Fire Department will be testing the siren at fire meetings.

He made a motion to make requested truck available to the Fire Department during fire season. This was unanimously approved.

Planning Report

LeAnne Woolf stated she attended the last meeting. The Commission held a hearing on a proposal for a small RV park.

No one was present to give testimony.

The Commission went into their meeting and gave the go-ahead to start working with the State, contractors, and such.

Armbruster asked if Planning Commission

meeting minutes could be forwarded to Council members and Woolf stated they will try to remember to do that when the copy is brought in to file.

Resolutions 333-B and 336

City Recorder Julie McKinney read Resolution 333-B: Movement of Budget Capacity within Street, Water and Sewer funds and Resolution 336: Movement of Budget Capacity within Water and Sewer funds to move budget capacity for the 2016/2017 fiscal year due to unexpected expenses over the winter.

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