

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 1 Section, Volume LXXXI No. 40

Published weekly for the residents of the Illinois Valley

Sex, smart meters and codes main topics at county meeting

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The Josephine County Board of Commissioners put in a solid hour during their weekly business session Wednesday, Oct. 3, after the previous week's record-shatteringly brief meeting, which clocked in at less than five minutes.

Commissioner Dan DeYoung brought the first item on the agenda before the board. Namely, the second reading of Ordinance 2018-004, the instate of the Josephine County Code. (The first reading took place Sept. 19. Citizens who want more details can review the meeting on the county's YouTube page or the Sept. 26 edition of the *Illinois Valley News*.)

Like with the first reading, a motion to read the ordinance by title only passed three votes to zero, due to the 538-page length. County legal counsel Wally Hicks was again brought to the podium, where he spoke to the historical significance of the code, with need for the document having been identified in the 1990s, and the endeavor to codify started in July 2014.

After the short reading process, a public forum on the topic was opened. Only one citizen, meeting frequenter Larry Ford, spoke on the matter, praising the commissioners for the ordinance, but saying the code will need refining in the future. In response, Commissioner Lily Morgan said this of the code: "We know it isn't perfect but it at least is getting it into the public's hands in an easy format and all in one spot."

Ordinance 2018-004 was then put to a vote and passed 3-0, with plans to put it into effect starting Jan. 1, 2019.

Next, Public Works employees Terry Carroll and Kent Jamerson were brought up to the podium to be honored for their service. Public Works Director Rob Brandes gave a brief accord, where he called the men hardworking and good mentors to newer government employees in the department.

Following this, Morgan read a proclamation declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Josephine County. Jennifer Buck of the Women's Crisis Response Team was brought up to the podium to speak about the importance of domestic violence awareness: "We must rise together in solidarity, raise awareness, support our survivors, and make the commitment to break the cycle."

The board then opened up public commentary. Josephine County resident Peter Engelhorn was the first to take the podium, using his time, as many have before him (see the Sept. 26 edition), to speak against smart meters. He claims that our county is about to face a lot of deception and misinformation regarding the new readers, and implored the board to take action against it, using a letter from the Jackson County Commissioners to the Public Utilities Commission as an example of what they can do. Engelhorn was also concerned with the smart meter rollout being poorly publicized and unfair opt-out fees.

Joseph Rice was next. He raised concerns about the process of reporting sexual harassment for county employees, as well as drug and alcohol screenings. Ford spoke again about forestry management, singling out Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, who he called an idiot for proposing a recent wildfire management bill. "It's got no teeth in it," Ford said of the senator's proposal.

SEE COUNTY ON A-9



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Cave Junction Deputy Don Moore ready for action outside of the *Illinois Valley News* office Wednesday, Oct. 3.

Resident deputy is on the street

"Now I'm helping to take our county back - and I'm not going to be bullied by these bad guys ..."

Deputy Don Moore

Annette McGee Rasch

IVN Senior Contributing Writer

The Josephine County Sheriff's Office has kicked off its residential deputy program, and in Cave Junction, Deputy Don Moore now keeps an office at the Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) and answers calls from Hayes Hill to the Oregon/California border.

"This program is all about old-school policing and getting back into the community," JoCo Sheriff Dave Daniel said. "And a big priority is to mentor and educate. So we're starting on the ground floor with our youth to build back that trust. The kids are getting used to seeing us more often."

"We're listening to the citizens and getting their feedback and addressing their concerns," Moore added. "My days are flexible so I can change my hours to benefit the community for events, meetings or ball games."

Moore works with neighborhood watch groups, the school district and the city to target high crime areas. He also partners with Cave Junction's Contract Deputy Bayard; and while Bayard's beat is CJ and Moore patrols the rural Valley - the pair team up as needed. Eventually, a School Resources Officer will join the team - and that deputy will be stationed at IVHS full-time.

Moore, originally from Crescent City, has lived in the Valley for 20 years and joined the force almost four years ago. He said one of his biggest challenges is to rebuild community

confidence because "without adequate law enforcement, people were neglected in the past.

"I got tired of how things were going in the Valley," he said. "Now I'm helping to take our county back- and I'm not going to be bullied by these bad guys. Maybe it will take people awhile to get their trust back in the sheriff's office, but with how things are going now, I think people will come around."

Moore remembers the old days: "I'd had several jobs here; there were more opportunities years ago, but now, not so much. And it's too bad, because it is a beautiful valley. The majority of people here are really good people and they all love it here and want the valley to be prosperous." He said it's "a small handful" of criminals giving the Valley a bad name.

"Some people thought they could come to the Valley to hide out from law enforcement, but now, even the bad guys are saying that they don't have the places to hide anymore; they're starting to realize that we're serious about taking the Valley back," Moore said. "Just this week, I had 11 arrests - and people will be seeing even more deputies and more patrol vehicles."

"The days of 'catch and release' for criminals are over," Daniel said, explaining how the 2017 Adult Jail and Juvenile Detention levy now provides the necessary funding to "hold these people accountable. And especially repeat offenders; they're spending a lot more time in jail."

SEE STREET ON A-9

Short and sweet city council meeting

Tina Casey Jones

IVN Contributing Writer

The regularly scheduled Cave Junction City Council meeting was relatively brief, but late additions to the agenda were enthusiastically discussed by the city council members as well as Illinois Valley residents. The planned agenda items (Consent Agenda and Sheriff's Contract Deputy/Priorities/Substation Lease) were passed unanimously, 5-0.

During the "Comments" section, Mayor Dalegowski introduced Dave Garcia, president of the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, who was asking for the city council to support and lobby with the chamber and the Illinois Valley Fire Department in requesting a Rapid Response Team based out of the I.V. Airport. Garcia advised that he and Angela Graves had reached out to both chambers for Jackson and Curry counties and was told that the economies of both had dropped significantly, -65 percent in Jackson County and -42 percent in Curry County.

Councilor Jean Ann Miles agreed, stating that we as a community need to work together to let our legislators and governor know that something must be done. While Chief Dennis Hoke had mentioned Smoke Jumpers, we already have some resources (such as drones) that could be used, and that the

effort needs to be proactively supported by the city. She also added that by being proactive we would benefit our economy as well as bring relief to the health of ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. Chief Hoke said that during the current fire season the Mercy Flight helicopter sat unused since there was too much smoke cover to be able to deploy the resource for medical calls.

Chief Hoke said that larger organizations in Southern Oregon were receiving the majority of the media coverage due to their impact on tourism economy in Southern Oregon (such as the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland) but that he'd received a lot of feedback from smaller organizations, such as the Galice Resort, where the impact of the fires was much more substantial, basically taking away their entire livelihood. Chief Hoke suggested that the best way to solve the problem would be through effective "fuels management."

"That is the where we'll make an impact. If we took even half of the money spent this past fire season on fire suppression we could have made a significant impact on the amount of forest burned." Chief Hoke said we need to take this lobbying effort to the state level, then on to the federal level.

Hoke also said that early on in his career as a firefighter when the team he was assigned to was not actively fighting fires, they would be deployed to conduct fuels management, allowing

them to get ahead of the game.

All members expressed their agreement in jointly lobbying the state for their assistance, with the mayor suggesting that each organization submit their own letters of endorsement.

In other comments, the city recorder advised that the next city council meeting would be moved to Tuesday, Nov. 13, since the regularly scheduled date (Monday, Nov. 12) falls on Veterans Day.

Councilor Lindsey Jones suggested the topic for the workshop scheduled for Monday, Nov. 22, be used for the Memorandum of Understanding for the use of the proceeds of the County building.

Councilor Mark Dillinger requested the annexing of the "County Islands" be added to the agenda as soon as possible.

Councilor Miles advised that she is now the co-coordinator for the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program being held at Evergreen Elementary for kindergarteners. She encouraged as many residents as possible take part in this program to encourage to the next generation of readers.

Mayor Dalegowski said that work is continuing in getting the Parks & Recreation program going, that there would be a notice in an upcoming edition of the I.V. News and applications to participate would be available at City Hall.