

County ponders cuts

Budget needs trimming

OREGON CITY — The Clackamas County budget committee spent eight grueling hours last week trying to balance the 1978-79 county budget only to wake up Friday morning to find they still had another \$240,000 to cut.

The committee finished an exhausting five-hour session Wednesday night thinking it had made the necessary cuts in county programs.

Unfortunately, county staff learned Thursday that \$200,000 in decreased revenues and added programs had been left out of the figuring.

The committee attempted to make up the difference at another work session Wednesday morning. Whether or not it succeeded was unavailable at press time.

Although all departments operating on county money took a uniform 5 percent cut from staff-proposed figures, some had to be reduced even further — including the courts, the surveyor, and the new general services administration. The committee sliced the conference and contingency funds.

If there was a winner in the budget war, it was Sheriff John Renfro, who won back \$70,000 or a \$20,000 proposed cut from his 1977 budget. However, the gain may have

been short-lived with another \$240,000 to be cut, Renfro's budget could be a likely candidate for trimming.

Commissioner Ralph Groener, a budget committee member, said he "cut things I honestly believed in and felt we needed to put deputies on the road."

Two forces are producing this year's budget crunch: the shrinking real value of the county's property tax base and an unexpected \$550,000 cut in Oregon and California Railroad (O&C) timber funds.

In addition, the county has several long-term programs, such as an additional courtroom or government reorganization, that would cost money immediately but save the county money over the long run. These programs will be funded partially or not at all this year.

One constraint the budget committee is working under is that it has control over less than half of the total county budget. Of this year's \$38 million budget, \$20 million is in federal or state grants. Much of the remaining \$18 million goes toward programs required by state or federal law. Thus, the \$240,000 cut is a substantial one, and the budget committee members seem at a

loss to determine where to cut next.

A rundown of how various departments have fared so far:

Sheriff — Renfro's finance manager, Jim Smith, told the committee last week the sheriff's budget would have an extra \$100,000 left over from the 1977-78 fiscal year, which ends June 30. Of that amount, the committee gave \$70,000 back to Renfro. Even with that, however, Renfro's budget will be almost \$400,000 less than this year's, because of the 5 percent cut.

Renfro has said that if he must make cuts in his departments, he will lay off deputies, and the remainder of his force no longer will respond to minor calls.

Surveyor — The committee slashed surveyor Dexter Milne's budget from \$143,000 this year to \$52,000, enough to cover Milne's salary, secretarial help and office supplies.

"Many counties do not have surveyors," said Commissioner Robert Schumacher, who made the motion. "We really don't need the on-the-ground research." If Milne needs a field crew, he can borrow engineers from the public works department Schumacher said.

The surveyor's job is to keep records of monuments in the county. Monuments are markers placed at half-mile intervals on both north-south and east-west lines through the county. Descriptions of monuments, in longitude latitude and elevation, are kept in the surveyor's office.

With the recent building boom in Clackamas County, Milne says, many monuments are removed by bulldozers and never replaced. This is what he feels his office should be doing, in addition to keeping records, he said.

"This cut does not do damage to the (surveyor's) primary function," which is keeping files of lot and

subdivision surveys, Schumacher said. "Milne takes pride in keeping the monuments going. I place more importance on saving \$59,000" (the amount Milne's budget was cut Wednesday night).

Milne said inaccurate descriptions of monuments could lead to more lawsuits involving disputed lot boundaries. Worse, he said, "All new land development will cease. Developers are not going to improve plats and subdivisions without adequate information."

Milne said he expects county commissioners to reverse the cut when they hear arguments from the county's real estate interests.

General Services Administration — This is a new department proposed by Robert Elfers and Associates in a 1977 report on county government. The department would coordinate the nuts and bolts of county government — data processing, communications, printing, records, payroll, and related functions.

Originally, the department was to be funded with \$194,000. The budget committee trimmed that to \$136,000, which will pay for an administrator, a secretary, and office equipment.

Other long-term improvement proposals were not so lucky. Studies of the assessor's office, county office space, management and capital improvements were funded for \$1 apiece.

Parks: Metzler Park will continue operation, as the committee restored \$9,000 to the parks department budget.

Conferences and training — The committee slashed this budget from \$92,890 to \$50,000, and may cut it again.



LEADERS OF the Sandy Community School Summer Fun Program play Knots — one of the New Games which will be part of the program agenda. Pictured are

Scott Stines, Debbie Hite, Jeanie Read, Susan Gray, Linda Carroll and Community School coordinator Judy Sheppard.

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Overnight housing sought for Oral Hull

Representatives of the Oregon Council of the Blind will be at the Oral Hull Foundation June 24 to talk to prospective members about forming a new chapter in the Sandy area.

The council has 13 chapters in Oregon and is affiliated with the American Council of the Blind. The organization, composed of blind people and sighted associate members, works for economic and

social benefits, and legislature for the blind. A scholarship fund is available to benefit the children of blind parents.

Efforts are being made to reach blind people in the area who might be interested in joining the Oregon Council of the Blind. Information may be obtained by contacting Marie Webb at 668-7587.

Mt. Hood Community College and the Sandy Community School are sponsoring a Summer Fun Program for kids in first through sixth grade.

The program will last three weeks beginning June 20 and will include a variety of activities, according to Judy Sheppard, coordinator of the Summer Fun Program. The activities range from woodworking to arts and crafts to "New Games."

New games will vary somewhat from traditional children's games, Mrs. Sheppard said.

"In these games, competition is put to a minimum and everyone can play and have a good time," said Mrs. Sheppard. "The idea is that no one is going to sit out once they get tagged."

An example of that philosophy is a game called The Blob, a variation of tag. In The Blob, one person is "it." When he tags someone that person also becomes "it," joining hands with his new partner. Together they go out looking for more victims. Each subsequent person that gets tagged also

becomes "it" until the whole group is chasing the final survivor.

"The kids probably have more fun being part of the group (blob) than they do running away from the person that's 'it,'" Mrs. Sheppard said. "You're never out — you become part of the blob."

Other games carry such colorful names as Prui, Snake in the Grass, Knots and The Flying Dutchman. In addition to the activities, the schedule includes swimming, field trips and three films.

Anyone wishing to volunteer their time to the program should contact Mrs. Sheppard at the MHCC-Sandy Community School trailer or call 668-5744.

"We mainly need chaperone help on field trips," said Sheppard. "We're looking for parents or older kids to help on one-day field trips."

The field trips will include a nature hike and a trip to Mt. Scott Park in Portland. Another activity on the schedule will be the pet show and bike races at the Sandy Mountain Festival. It's a way to make the kids feel that they're part of the festival too, Mrs. Sheppard said.

"We're also looking for a small trailer so we can enter a float," she added. "We already have a theme in mind, we just need a trailer."

To be eligible for the Summer Fun Program, a child must have completed first grade. Cost is \$2 per week which should cover all expenses.

Summer Drama Program

A summer drama program is also available for kids who have completed fifth through eighth grades.

"There is a real lack of the arts (drama) in the schools until they get to high school," Mrs. Sheppard said. The summer drama program is designed to teach the kids the fundamentals of drama.

"It really exposes the kids to the technical detail of theater in a fun way," she said.

The kids will learn such things as voice projection, expression, mime, make-up, setting, props and acting in general. Instructors for the program will be Larry and Laura LaMarsh, volunteer leaders of Sandy's One Way Theatre.

12:30 - 2 Movie: "Brightly of Grand Canyon"

2 - ? Optional swim — not paid for by community school

June 22

10:30 - 12:30 Activities

12:30 - 1 Sack lunch

1 - ? Swim

June 23

Field trip to zoo: Limited to 50 kids; meet at Community School at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch money. Pick up at 2:30 p.m.

Week II

June 27

10:30 - 12:30 Activities

12:30 - 1 Sack lunch

1 - ? Swim

June 28

10:30 - 12:30 Activities

12 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 2 Movie: "Three Worlds of Gulliver"

2 - ? Optional Swim not paid for by Community School

June 29

10:30 - 12:30 Activities

12:30 - 1 Sack lunch

1 - ? Swim

June

Field trip to Portland: Limited to 50 kids. Bring lunch money. Leaves Community School 9 a.m. Pick up at 4 p.m.

Week III

July 5

10:30 - 12 Pet Show - Sandy Mountain Festival

July 6

10 - 12 Bike Races - Sandy Mountain Festival

July 7

10:30 - 12 Field Day

12 - 12:30 Sack lunch

12:30 - 2 Movie: "Horse without a Head"

2 - 2:15 Banana split party

July 12-13

There will be field trips on these dates limited to 50 kids. More information later.

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