

By 6-1 margin

Committee on home-rule votes no to change

OREGON CITY — Members of a committee formed to determine whether Clackamas County should write a home-rule charter decided to make no changes in the legal authority of the agency.

Seven of nine members attended the first decision-making meeting of the charter committee, and they reported that public testimony suggests no charter is needed.

Dale Harlan of Milwaukie supported a limited charter. "I'm not in favor of any radical reorganization," he said. "Other members have suggested some areas that need to be restructured. We could come up with a limited charter now and avoid haphazard initiatives in the future," Harlan said.

He also said he was afraid the Legislature would take away some of the powers of non-home-rule counties. "We should take steps now to insure our rights," he said.

Chairman Sid Brockley of Oregon City said he did not

agree that the state was in the process of centralizing power in the state legislature. "I think the movement is away from centralization," he said. "If there is a movement afoot to take away those powers — that is when we would need to act on a charter."

Harlan was out-voted six to one when the committee voted to tell the commissioners that no charter was needed at this time.

Brockley said the main issues in the study were whether the county should have five commissioners instead of three, whether the commissioners should be elected from districts, and whether other officials like the sheriff, the assessor and the surveyor should be elected or appointed.

Harlan was the only committee member to strongly support additional commissioners. "With the number of people in the county, we ought to be looking into broader representation," Harlan said.

Rhododendren represen-

tative John Thompson said "I'm not convinced that five commissioners would benefit the county. There would be more expense and more staff," he said. "I love the intent, but I can't be assured it would reduce costs."

Joy Abele of Oregon City said she was not in favor of five commissioners because of the cost.

Brockley echoed their opinions, adding that the additional commissioners could cost the county \$250,000 or more a year.

There was no support among the committee members for electing the

commissioners from districts.

Marianne Doty, who represents Sandy, said she could not support electing from districts because the county has such a low population in the large rural area that the rural areas would not get fair representation.

Harlan said "I agree that districting won't work because too much of the county's population is concentrated in the urban area in the north part of the county."

Most of the committee members agreed that the public wants the right to

elect other public officials. However, Nancy Murray of Lake Oswego suggested that some of the officials are not required to be elected by the state constitution. The county could change these to appointed positions without a charter, though.

The clerk, sheriff and treasurer offices must be filled through election, while the assessor and surveyor are, but don't have to be elected.

Several committee members also suggested that allowing commissioners

to modify the charter would weaken it. "That seems to be what happened in Lane County," Doty said. She said she would not like to see a charter tinkered with, if one were drawn up.

"When we first started the process most of us did not

realize what a charter was all about," said Nancy McClain of Milwaukie. "We asked ourselves and the witnesses if the county would benefit. And I can not see where we would benefit at all by writing a charter," McClain said.

Pet disposal system debated

Clackamas County and Oregon City officials have become entangled in a campaign to outlaw the use of high-altitude, low pressure chambers to dispose of unwanted pets.

Clackamas County has been criticized because members of Citizens for Humane Euthanasia claim the high altitude system results in a painful death for the animals.

County commissioner Bob Schumacher disagrees. He said animals die in a

euphoric state and the machine produces no pain.

The city is entering the picture because the Committee to Ban the Decompression Chamber in Clackamas County, coordinated by some of the leaders of the humane euthanasia group, has introduced a petition to let voters decide the issue for the city. The initiative petition would outlaw the use of so-called decompression chambers inside the city limits. The county's animal control center where the

disposal is done is within the city.

The committee turned in 600 names on the petition to the city clerk this week. Diana Palmer, president of the humane euthanasia group, said only 207 signatures are required to

get the measure on the ballot.

Palmer said the issue, i 207 of the signatures are verified, will go before city voters Nov. 3.

Multnomah County went through the same type of challenge.

Block grant review Sept. 17

The Clackamas County Community Development Division will hold a public hearing to review program progress and performance of its Urban County Community Development Block Grant next Thursday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m.

The hearing will be held during the Board of County Commissioners meeting in the Clackamas County Courthouse Annex, second floor,

906 Main, Oregon City. The purpose of the hearing is to report on the major activities and performance of the program from 1978-1980.

Citizens either seeking information or having comments or questions about the program are urged to attend.

For further information contact Dale Query of the Community Development Division at 655-8591.

Zigzag road to close

The Forest Service has announced plans for the temporary closure of a popular forest road in the Zigzag Ranger District, Mount Hood National Forest. Forest road S-25 will be closed to all vehicular traffic on Sept. 14 and 15, while crews perform needed maintenance.

Forest road S-25 is located off of Lolo Pass Road, seven miles northeast of Zigzag and serves the Old Maid Flat area. It provides the only access to Riley and McNeil Campgrounds and Lost Creek Nature Trail and Picnic Area.

The closure of S-25 will also restrict access to the following trails: Horseshoe Trail No. 774; Cast Creek Trail No. 773; Ramona Falls Loop No. 797; and Burnt Lake Trail No. 772.

The Ramona Falls trail provides access to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Hikers planning trips on these trails, as well as those

planning trips around the Timberline Trail, may contact the Zigzag Ranger Station for information of alternative access points.

Road is closed

Mt. Hood National Forest's Bennett Pass Road is closed between Highway 35 and Windy Saddle to permit road construction.

The road closed Tuesday. The project, which will last through the fall, will not affect the road's use as a winter cross-country ski area.



Trudy Marquis of Eagle Creek waits her turn in the showing during the 4-H rabbit show at the Oregon State Fair. She received a blue ribbon in the competition.

Swiss weekend

Timberline Lodge invites mountain area residents to a buffet dinner and dance in celebration of its 12th annual Swiss Weekend on Sept. 12 at the historic lodge high on Mt. Hood near Government Camp.

Alpine folk music will be presented by the Werner Blaser Kapelle of Chehalis, Washington.

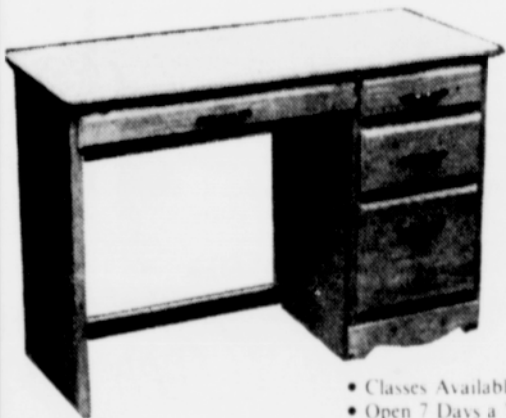
Featured vocalists will be the mother-daughter team of Betty and Shirley Abbott, Portland.

The accordion-playing Edelweiss Irregulars, with Walter Aeppli and Dieter Nachmann, will play Swiss, German and Austrian numbers during the evening.

For more information call 272-3311. Tickets for the dinner and dance are \$13 per person. For the dance, \$3.

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