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Revenue shortfalls snarl budget plans

by DAN DILLON

The Sandy Elementary District plans to present district patrons with the smallest budget jump in several years, yet decreases in revenue will force a greater increase in taxes.

That comes despite more than \$277,000 which has already been pared from the 1982-83 proposal by the district Budget Committee.

"Every dollar (the budget committee) reduced is a tax dollar," Superintendent Clark Lund said Tuesday.

The biggest cut came in teachers' salaries and related fixed charges. Some \$142,000 were cut from that facet after the November 1981 Consumer Price Index was released.

According to the teachers' agree-

ment, their raise for this year of the contract is the CPI minus 1 percent.

When the budget proposal was prepared, indications were that the CPI would be higher than it turned out to be, so the excess was eliminated.

Other cuts made by the budget committee included \$10,692 from a modified sports program (only Cedar Ridge students would now participate); Talented and Gifted program, \$37,946; a new bus, \$28,500; an extra driver, \$8,803, and the level of teacher's aide service, \$18,000.

For awhile, the budgeters considered discontinuing the hot lunch program, in favor of a milk program. That idea was finally defeated.

Yet, the total savings could not offset the loss of revenues.

Those losses came from a lower cash carryover this year, lower earnings on temporary investments and state Basic School Support.

"Basically, we've used almost all of our cash carryover just to make this year's operation go," Lund said. As a result, this year there will be approximately \$190,000 less cash available.

The loss from temporary investments was caused by a new policy of distribution of state revenues. As the state attempts to salvage its economic woes, it realigned its method of money distribution from quarterly to monthly.

That eliminated investing leftover money after the monthly bills were paid in short-term investments.

The school district has earned as

much as \$175,000 a year by doing this. Lund estimates the district will now only be able to raise about half that amount.

The state Basic School Support will not increase approximately \$200,000 a year as it has in the past either. "That hurts," Lund said.

As the district shifts to meet those economic responsibilities, unfortunately the shift goes to the property tax payers. This year, the district's tax jump could be almost 30 percent for a total budget of \$5.4 million.

Unless something is done at the state level, Lund fears that this budgeting difficulty could become the trend, rather than the exception.

"I envision some drastic political action," he said, "drastic political

action being tax levy limitations.

"Most districts are facing the same thing we are," he said. "With that being a statewide problem, there is much more likelihood of one of these property tax limitations occurring."

Because public education is required by state constitution, the state Legislature is going to have to come up with some innovative means of helping local taxing districts, but that move probably won't come when the special session convenes later this year.

But, Lund is convinced, it will have to come sometime soon.

"I think we're going to see the Legislature looking at 'How can we bail out local property tax payers,'" Lund said. "I think they have to."

SUHS moves forward with arts center

by SCOTT NEWTON

The Sandy Union High School Board of Education instructed Richard Gessford and Associates, architects for proposed renovations and the performing arts center, to keep working on the project.

However, they postponed the March 30 election indefinitely.

"With the economy the way it is right now, and until we figure out our budget for next year, I think we ought to put it on the back burner," said Pete Griffin, board chairman, about the \$3.5 million arts center project.

Board Member Gary Cleland agreed, "Mr. Chairman, I'm going to make a motion. I would like to see us table this thing indefinitely until economic conditions get better.

"I agree with Richard (Gessford), I hate to lose the momentum we have going, but if the economic conditions turn around, I'm sure we can get that momentum back very quickly."

Board Member Robert Boring seconded the motion, agreeing that it would be difficult to get the public to approve of a performing arts center at this time, but adding that he would regret not continuing with the project.

Cleland said that he does not expect the economy to turn around until the spring of 1983. About putting a serial levy before the public, he said, "I think it's absolutely suicide."

Board Member Wayne Johnson took a different stance.

"This board is charged with the responsibility of providing students with classroom space," he said.

"If we do not provide those kinds of spaces, and if we're providing a space that is, (as) Dr. Peters pointed out, deteriorating daily, how soon does that become a hazard?"

"Maybe it won't. I don't know at this point. But what if we determine tomorrow that it is a hazard? And we close up three or four classrooms because we can not use the building? Then what'll we do?"

Johnson was referring to a crack in the wall of the agriculture room that "has suddenly been growing." There is also a crack in the shop area.

"We've got some real problems, and we have to look at them," Johnson continued. "I don't think we can just shove this thing on the back burner and forget it."

Gessford pointed out another problem in postponing the project.

"Historically, in the last 20 years, (building) hasn't gotten any cheaper," he said. "And I don't suspect it's going to turn around and get cheaper the next 12 or 14, or 24 months."

"Sometimes I wonder if this performing arts complex should have a different name," Paul Tucker, board member, said.

"I don't know if that would work or not. It doesn't bother me, but some people don't like the performing arts. "But anyway, that's just a thought. I won't charge you anything for it," he joked.

The board voted 3-2 against Cleland's motion to table the project indefinitely, with Cleland and Griffin voting yes and Boring, Johnson and Tucker voting no.

Gessford was instructed to continue working on the project under terms of a \$10,000 contract with the board.

In other business, Dennis Crow, assistant principal, discussed a survey sent to 440 parents. The return rate was 47.3 percent.

Almost 50 percent said that they support the goal of a focus on general education. Thirty-seven percent said that they favor a goal with a focus on vocational education, and 16 percent said they favor a goal with a focus on college preparatory work.



This Brightwood home, built in the 1940s, was destroyed early Tuesday morning when flames swept through the log structure.

Photo by Michael P. Jones

Early-morning blaze destroys historic home

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

An early-morning fire gutted an historic Brightwood home Tuesday, near the Salmon River Bridge just off Highway 26.

The Sherwood House on East Cannon Street, which served as a landmark and tourist attraction for many years, was completely destroyed after it was totally engulfed in flames when Hoodland Rural Fire Department crews arrived on the scene after a 3:30 a.m. alarm.

Three engines, two tankers were used to bring the fire under control within 40 minutes after arrival at the scene, according to Hoodland Fire Chief Don Armintrout. He said that it took another three hours to completely extinguish the flames.

The house, owned by Ted and Gertrude Johnson of Portland, was valued at approximately \$112,000.

Beverly Stonebrook, a next door neighbor, said she had a feeling something was wrong all day Sunday. She said that at one time she went to the house and looked in the windows to

see if there was anything unusual.

"My gut feeling was that something was wrong," Stonebrook said. "Above the house, in the trees, was what looked like fog or smoke."

She said that she figured it had to be smoke coming from the home's chimney because someone had been in the house earlier in the day.

Stonebrook checked the house twice more Sunday, using binoculars, before she went to bed, she said.

Dorothy Kemper, the Johnsons' daughter, said an Oregon State Police trooper driving west on Highway 26, also noticed something unusual and described the fog that seemed to hang in the trees above the house.

Mrs. Johnson called the fire "a very unfortunate loss," because of the structures rustic architectural design and unique furnishings.

The house was built in the 1940s by the Sherwood family as a replica of a similar home on the Oregon Coast. Kemper said the coastal home served as an office and residence for managers of some beach cottages.

The home in Brightwood, according to Kemper, was designed by the eldest Sherwood, a Portland educator. His son built the house to his father's specifications.

The finished product featured hardwood floors, a staircase with naturally curved poles for its railing and a heavy wood-plank door.

The house was built of seasoned tamarack logs from the Bend area.

The house also featured a 1,000-square-foot living room which was decorated with old guns, skins of cougars, bobcats and a large timber wolf, and stuffed owls. All were lost in the blaze.

Also destroyed was a 3- by 15-foot oak table which was brought around Cape Horn more than 100 years ago.

Armintrout said the blaze probably started two or more hours before his department was notified. It is still under investigation.

He said that it would be a few days before the cause could be established.

Commissioners deny Minikahda hydro project

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The Clackamas County Commissioners last week denied the appeal to an earlier decision which stopped construction of a hydroelectric project on Minikahda Creek in the Lolo Pass area.

Last Wednesday, Paul M. Sanders, of Zigzag, appealed the hearing officer's decision that his mini-hydroelectric project conflicted with Clackamas County ordinances. Sanders had already been granted a

loan from the state Energy Loan Program on the stipulation that the county approve his permit.

The hearings officer had denied the permit, citing ordinances which prohibit construction on slopes greater than 35 percent.

Sanders told the county commissioners that it is unfair to deny the permit based on slope, because microhydro projects need the slopes to help move the water fast enough to generate electricity.

Ron Stangel, of the county planning department, told the commissioners

that his staff considered the average slope to be less than 35 percent and did not feel the application violated the intent county's comprehensive plan or zoning ordinances.

Sanders contended that the "open space review" in the ordinance provides for a staff review of the project in order to resolve conflicts between development standards and development and open space resources. In this case, he said, the conflict is slope.

Commissioner Ralph Groener agreed and said that because voters

had approved small energy project development, it is necessary for the planning staff to address this in the comprehensive plan as well as in the zoning ordinances so these projects may proceed.

Henry Markus, Oregon Department of Energy land-use specialist, told the commissioners that he is concerned that the county's only preclusion to hydroelectric projects was the 35-percent-slope criterion.

A proposed amendment to the ordinance regarding slope is scheduled to go before the Clackamas County Planning Commission later this month.

Attorney Edward Sullivan, representing the Mt. Hood Water Resources Coalition which opposed the project, argued that existing county ordinances prohibit the Minikahda project and that until the ordinance is amended, the proposal is a dead issue. He moved for a dismissal of the appeal, based on the earlier hearings officer decision.

Commissioner Robert Schumacher concurred and formalized a motion and added, "Mr. Sanders be given leave to file for that conditional use without approval" if the slope amendment is approved.

Groener said he concurred with Schumacher's motion only because he felt the Coalition would file a lawsuit. He said he is concerned that "obstructionists" will defeat similar energy projects like the Minikahda

Sandy clerk assaulted in robbery try

A Sandy store clerk was assaulted by two men early Sunday morning when he attempted to stop an apparent theft of beer at a local grocery store.

Chu Yul Choi, 26, was attacked outside Jim's Big Apple Grocery, 38636 Proctor Blvd., at 2:52 a.m. after he followed two customers outside after they had reportedly taken a half-case of beer from the store.

Choi was taken by Alpine Ambulance to Gresham Community Hospital where he was treated for a concussion after he was beaten in the head by blunt instruments. He was released Tuesday.

Arrested and charged with first-degree robbery, first-degree assault

and carrying a dangerous weapon with intent to use were Steven Lee James, 18, of Sandy, and William James Willis, 20, also of Sandy.

Investigation into the incident is continuing.

Sandy police issued a number of citations for driving under the influence of intoxicants over the New Years' weekend.

Marklita Louise Mantei, 30, of Boring, was cited Jan. 1 at 12:15 a.m. for DUII after she was stopped near the intersection of Pioneer Boulevard and Scales Avenue.

Dennis Orville Bennett, 25, of Boring, was cited for DUII and driving with a suspended license after he was stopped near the intersection of Proc-

tor Boulevard and Shelley Avenue at 2:45 a.m.

Danny Britton, 30, of Sandy was also cited New Years Day for DUII, after he was stopped near the intersection of Highway 26 and Highway 211 at 3:48 a.m.

Jeffrey Wayne Collins, 19, of Sandy, was arrested and taken into custody on a warrant from Clackamas County on a parole violation last Friday.

Monday, Robery Oleny Gilliland, 54, of Sandy, was cited and released for DUII after the vehicle he was driving collided with a parked car near the intersection of Proctor Boulevard and Scales Avenue at 12:20 a.m.

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