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Next levy failure would close SUHS *City dealt setback in LID battle*

by SCOTT NEWTON

A number of topics had been discussed before Kenneth Blackburn asked, "Are you going to open?"

"We have sufficient funds to operate through the month of September," Dr. Jack Peters, superintendent, told the crowd of more than 100 at the Sandy High School Board of Directors meeting Monday evening.

Most expected to find out which programs would go on the "A" ballot and which would go on the "B" ballot on Sept. 21.

The board, which had met in executive session for an hour and a half before the meeting, apparently decided to wait until after receiving public input before making a proposal.

After discussing the way education is financed in Oregon, the possibility of a unified district, the duplication of bus runs, and numerous other topics, the meeting was adjourned until Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m. At that time the board will entertain a motion concerning what to put on the "B" ballot, discuss it and vote on it.

Monday night the board unanimously approved the size of the "B" ballot. It was expected that \$636,381 would be needed, but an additional \$133,157 in Basic School Support was received from the state in late July. In addition to the Basic School Support, an excess cash carryover of \$22,592, and a savings of \$76,592 realized when three full- and one part-time teachers resigned, put the figure at \$404,040.

After explaining that a state formula determines how much the school may put on the "A" and "B" ballots, Cathy Coleman asked, "That \$404,040 is total funding for the programs you guys want?"

"That's the programs, including the "A" ballot, that I believe (make) a viable program for high school students," Peters responded. "And a budget committee of 10 citizens met for many hours and that's the budget they came up with."

Wayne Johnson, board chairman, added, "I might mention during the time those 10 people were putting together that budget you were invited to participate."

"We had five people at our budget hearing when we discussed it at length."

The board has several alternatives



All eyes, including the camera's, were on Sandy High School Board members Monday night as they deliberated ways to make the high school budget more palatable to local voters.

in dealing with the "B" ballot, which many do not expect to pass.

Karen Topliff said her husband has taken a 10 percent cut in pay, and asked if the school board is considering such an alternative.

That "is one of the things this board is considering," Johnson said.

Peters said if teachers' pay is kept at last year's level, the administration would also take such a cut. The classified staff would also be asked to make such a sacrifice. Freezing the pay levels of all three groups would result in a savings of approximately \$180,000, according to Joan Hay, deputy clerk.

That would require re-opening negotiations, and the idea would most likely not be popular with teachers or classified personnel as people at feeder schools in the district have not been required to make such a sacrifice, being they are totally funded.

Some entire athletic programs could be cut, or the board could

reduce them all, which would eliminate some junior varsity or freshman programs.

Fall sports are continuing for now, although some could end abruptly in September if the "B" ballot fails. If the "A" ballot fails Sept. 21 the school will close Sept. 30.

Twelve non-tenured teachers may not be hired, which would result in a savings of \$352,065, but would be devastating to programs, according to Hay.

There were 19 "nonrenewed" teachers this spring, but two were rehired and others have accepted other positions. Those left, and the subjects they teach, include Scott McMullen, science, Molly Knudsen, physical education, Joseph Kniser, math, Charles Kearney, art and physical education, John Smith, social studies, Jeannie Rossos, agriculture and work experience, Robert Karsten, art, Nancy Haskell, communications, Barbara Haggerty, business education, Alan L'hon-

medieu, forestry, Mark Kuntz, drama, and Welcome Rumbaugh, industrial arts. In addition a math teacher and a communications teacher just resigned this week, and the administration feels they need those positions filled.

Jan Luelling was rehired as librarian, and Billie Sue Chambers was hired as a special education teacher.

Teachers who resigned, resulting in the \$76,000 saving (in salaries and fringe benefits), were Judith Fischer, speech, Britt Tucker, social studies, Ruth Kostur, English, and Vickie Andrews, a part-time home economics teacher.

At the meeting Monday night voting by mail, having volunteers drive buses to athletic contests, a sales tax to finance schools, and having students walk further to the bus stops were among the ideas discussed.

A unified school district was one topic brought up several times. Also

discussed was the duplication of bus routes.

Lillias Crane said at one time three of her children were taking three different buses to school.

A study done a few years ago addressed this issue, according to Bob Boring, board member. Reportedly, the study indicated SUHS could save \$75,000, while cumulatively all the districts could save up to \$300,000.

"I really think the man was dreaming just a little bit," Boring said of the figures, but added, "I think it's a very viable program."

"I think this board has gone about as far as it can. If we can get some input (from the grade school boards) I'm ready to open it up (again)."

Fred Del Ziel said he's 73, on a fixed income, and paid \$1,000 to the Bull Run School District and \$500 to the SUHS District in property taxes for "nothing fancy at all."

"Let 'em walk to school and they'll get all the athletics they need," he said.

One-year tax base planned for voter try

by DAN DILLON

The city of Sandy will continue its fiscally conservative approach this fall when it asks voters to approve a \$460,000 tax base proposal in the November general election.

City Manager Roger Jordan estimates that the base would be good for one or two years, but would at least give the city a foothold that it doesn't now enjoy with its minuscule \$14,000 base.

"It's something to get something on the books," he said, "so every single year we don't risk everything we have" with a levy election.

Jordan admitted changing his thinking on the tax base matter, switching from favoring a progressive tax base which can last six seven years to the more conservative base which, he estimates, would just meet the city's needs for an A ballot in the spring.

"It's the best estimate of what a Ballot A will do next year," he said. He said the estimate takes into consideration a small growth year in assessed values and that with the \$460,000 base and the rest of the city's revenue, the local government will be "fairly stable."

Jordan cautioned that the city must continue to keep its cash carryover in good shape to pay bills before the fiscal year ends and before tax receipts come in.

One consideration facing every budgeter statewide is the proposed 1.5 percent property tax limitation that will be on the November ballot.

"If you're only taxing \$15 per \$1,000, it doesn't take long to figure out how much the city's losing," Jordan said.

"I guess you can basically divide your organization in half."

With one-person departments

like the city of Sandy's, he noted, "I'm not sure how you divide those persons in half."

On an optimistic note, Jordan said the city could levy up to the 1.5 percent limitation and still be ahead of what the existing tax base allows the city to collect before it passes special levies every year.

Under the 1.5 percent limitation, Jordan thinks growth would be penalized because more services would have to be provided for the rising population, but a lower amount of money would be available to provide them. "There is an incentive to stay stagnant," he said.

A resolution calling for the \$460,000 tax base will be presented at a special adjourned meeting Aug. 26.

Most of that meeting will be spent in executive session as the city council and a citizens' committee screen the final list of applicants vying to become the new city manager.

Jordan said there are currently 12 candidates still in the running. Final interviews will be held Sept. 11.

In other action Monday night the council:

— Accepted two separate bids that will allow the summer street improvement program to go ahead as scheduled. Jim Turin and Sons bid \$22,130 to complete the first phase of the North Bluff Road paving project; C.H. Stenson bid \$9,552,40 to complete the oil mat projects at other sites.

— Agreed to spend \$3,000 to purchase new water meters to begin a project that will eventually replace all city water meters over a 10-year period.

— Appointed Virginia Kallen to fill a vacancy on the Library Board.

Future of sewer system outlined

by DAN DILLON

Studies released last week indicate the city of Sandy's sewage treatment plant can handle 670 new connections and the possibility exists that the North Bluff area may some day be served by a gravity-flow sewer line.

The two studies, prepared by Lee Engineering, Inc., of Oregon City show that the city's treatment plant, once written off as nearly at capacity, can handle the new connections but there is work to be done so it can reach its theoretical capacity.

The news that the sewage treatment plant is in better shape, thanks to implementing some of Lee's earlier suggestions, is "one of the reports that makes you feel good," said City Manager Roger Jordan. "It means that sewage treatment plant expansion is important, but not critical at this time."

Walt Mintkeski, of the engineering firm, said the problem of inflow and

infiltration into the sewer system needs to be addressed. The problem, he said, "isn't something you solve once and forever. It's ongoing maintenance like a car."

The city has agreed to spend \$7,000 for Lee Engineering to study the inflow problem, the bulk of which is caused by rainy weather, and try to come up with a solution to lengthen the life of the plant.

PLANS FOR 2000

Looking ahead, the engineering firm has prepared a step-by-step plan for the city to meet its future needs.

Based on a review of the city's comprehensive plan, the city's urban growth boundary could contain up to 12,500 people by the year 2000. That, coupled with additional industry and commerce, would increase Sandy's sewer needs to a 1.5 million gallon per day plant.

To prepare for that day, Mintkeski

recommends a phased approach to expanding the plant.

Under Mintkeski's timetable, the \$3.6 million project in three phases, would be completed around 1994.

NORTH BLUFF SEWER

Although there is no timeline on the project, residents of the North Bluff Road area would like to be on-line by the time the new sewage treatment plant is completed.

The study, presented by Duane Lee, president of the engineering firm, outlines several alternatives—the final result of which would be gravity-flow lines from the "panhandle" area near Kelso Road to the sewage treatment plant.

While the entire network of sewer lines is being installed, a temporary pump station would be installed to pump sewage from the Bluff Road area and the area surrounding the Sandy High School athletic field to the proposed sewer line along Highway 26.

Early assessment tied to tax limit

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Earlier this summer the Clackamas County utilities division delayed the assessments in the Cedar Ridge area, near Brightwood, until the construction of the sewerline that would serve the area was completed.

At that time Dave Abrams, utilities director, said assessments for the 500-acre tract would probably not be levied until October. The assessments total nearly \$2.5 million.

However, last week, Abrams notified Cedar Ridge property owners and advised them the assessments will be levied this week, to head off the potential impact that could be created by passage of state Ballot Measure 3 in the Nov. 2 election.

The ballot measure would limit property taxes to 1.5 percent in-

creases, disallowing the sale of Bancroft bonds for assessments, explained Abrams. The bond sale is needed to pay the construction costs for the \$5.5 million Welches sewage treatment facility, operated by the Hoodland Service District.

The original intention of the delayed assessment, said Abrams, was to give the Cedar Ridge property owners the same break as those in the Welches area who weren't assessed until the sewage treatment facility was built and ready to provide service.

July 1 \$2,986,665 in property tax assessments were levied in the Welches area, said Abrams, representing 394 tax lots.

Assessments in both areas are due Jan. 1, 1983. Those who wish may have up to 20 years to pay the assessment.

In the Welches area, Abrams said an nearly 350 of the tax lot owners

have opted for this route to pay off the assessment. Only 30 have elected to pay in cash which represents approximately \$60,000.

A bond counsel is in the process of putting together bid sales for the sewer bonds, said Abrams. Clackamas County is targeting the sale of the Bancroft bonds in mid-September, probably through local banks and bond houses.

Abrams said the interest rates for the bonds isn't known, but is expected to be between 11 to 14 percent. The rates could be lower because interest rates are reportedly dropping.

With the levy assessments against the Cedar Ridge property owners, Abrams admitted there will be some economic impact because the land isn't developed. Three subdivisions—totaling 994 units on 494 acres—are currently proposed for the area.

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