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Elementary district to try same levy again

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

Dismissing suggestions for at least a "token" reduction, the Sandy Elementary School Board decided Tuesday to resubmit a \$1,980,914 levy for the third time to district voters in August.

"If we really believe this is the most fiscally sound, the most we can cut without hurting kids, then we ought to do it again," said board member Sharron Cox.

Superintendent Clark Lund said there would be difficulty finding further ways to cut the proposed budget.

"The budget committee has been conscientious about holding the line," he said. "If we do (reduce) we are going to have some hurt."

Lund noted that the \$1,980,914 levy is just \$32,000 higher than last year's levy, or about the amount required to renovate the boiler system at Cedar Ridge and Sandy Elementary schools.

The board felt cutting that item from the proposal would not be ad-

vantageous. Questions were raised about the safety of the present system and whether doing just enough repair "to get by" would be a waste of money.

Lund warned that problems with the system were likely to increase with temporary repairs and noted repair costs will most likely rise.

"Let's not put ourselves in a posture of put it off and have to catch up," he said.

The purchase of a new bus for the district was also left in the proposed budget when members of the board felt maintenance and safety problems with older buses made it a necessity.

Budget member Bill Lenon said any "cosmetic" cuts would serve no purpose. "This is not a subway," he said, "we don't need any token reductions."

Lund stated an "expression of dissatisfaction" about the previous elections. Although the turnout was lighter in June than May, the margin of defeat for the levy was 8 percent in each election.

City to outline plan for sewer plant growth

Faced with the thought of reaching capacity in the Sandy sewage treatment plant prematurely, local officials are developing a scope of work to complete a facilities plan for the plant.

The long-range plan will make short-range spending at the plant more effective, according to City Manager Tom Reber. Cost for developing the scope of work for research with consulting engineers is expected to be between \$20,000 and \$40,000.

The plan will "fill in the missing parts" of the development of the sewage treatment plant, according to City Engineer Greg DiLoreto, and continue the working relationship the city enjoys with the Department of Environmental Quality. DEQ will also be involved in the review process when the alternatives are listed in the scope of work.

According to Reber, land irrigation with effluent should be investigated, as it is the only alternative to discharging into Tickle Creek. Anything the city does will have to be approved by DEQ who has indicated they want the city to consider it.

DEQ also wants the city to determine if summer use of the settling pond could achieve better quality discharge at the plant.

Of primary concern to Reber is that additional capacity be added to the plant in stages, so if growth does not occur as expected to the year 2000, the city will be obligated only for payments to various stages as needed.

There is still a balance of approximately \$270,000 to be paid on the construction of the existing plant, with payments of about \$35,000 per year through 1991. Because much of the collection system was built during the 1970s, it is relatively good condition, except for inflow and infiltration problems, which increase flows by as much as nine times the summer rate.

In a status report issued to the Sandy City Council last week, Reber noted that work is being done to correct the problem and lessen the capacity the excess water takes up.

A second problem is structural. The lack of reinforced partitions between treatment chambers limits the amount of waste water the plant can process.



Sandy firefighters J.P. Jones and Capt. Swede French man the deck gun on Engine 72. The two took part in a drill testing the fire district's ability to maintain a flow of water in rural areas.

Photos by Dan Dillon

District gets good marks on flow test

by DAN DILLON

Motorists may be forgiven if they were puzzled last Wednesday evening as their drove west out of Sandy, past Ruben Lane.

Firefighters from four fire districts busily hauled tanker trucks full of water to a dump tank at the intersection and pumped it out, at a rate of more than a thousand gallons a minute, onto nothing more than a vacant field.

While the exercise may have appeared a bit curious, the dividends of the drill could have both short- and long-term affects.

Lower fire insurance rates sparked the drill initially, but other paybacks will be tangible more quickly from the fire district's standpoint.

"As far as I'm concerned the drill went great," said Sandy Fire Chief Bob Rathke. "It's good from the standpoint that it's good training for the guys working with a mutual aid company and for the officers. It gives them a chance to direct."

The drill, run in conjunction with Hoodland, Boring and Estacada fire districts, tested the local fire district's ability to supply a steady flow of water to a rural area.

It was part of a test conducted by the Insurance Services Office to evaluate the district's fire suppression capabilities and the municipal water system's ability to deliver necessary water flows.

John Mothershead, field rating representative, was pleased with what he saw, noting the variety of different duties needed to perform the drill. The results of his three-day look at the Sandy area won't be known for a year, but Rathke is cautiously optimistic that the result could be reduced insurance

fees for district patrons.

"We would hope that there would be some improvement in both residential and commercial," he said.

More tangibly, the drill gave firefighters an opportunity to get a better handle on how neighboring fire districts operate.

"Maybe three or four times a year we work with surrounding districts," said Sandy Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher. "We get a little more familiar with each other's procedures."

"When it comes to the actual thing, it makes everything run that much smoother."

Last year, the Sandy Fire District was involved in 59 mutual aids with neighboring fire districts when the skills gained in drills such as this were utilized.

Wednesday evening, firefighters set up a 6,000-gallon dump tank in the middle of the Ruben Lane intersection with Highway 26. While they worked, firefighters from the three neighboring fire districts were dispatched with tankers to the Sandy site.

The dump tank became the source of water and within five minutes the engine began pumping water. After 15 minutes it was pumping more than 1,100 gallons per minute and maintained that pace for the next hour and a half.

Each of the five tankers involved in the drill shuttled loads of water from the district's drill site near the city shops on Sunset Street to the dump tank for the next hour and a half.

Gallagher estimated that more than 87,000 gallons of water was pumped during the test.

By knowing how much water the engine can pump and considering travel distances, fire officials work

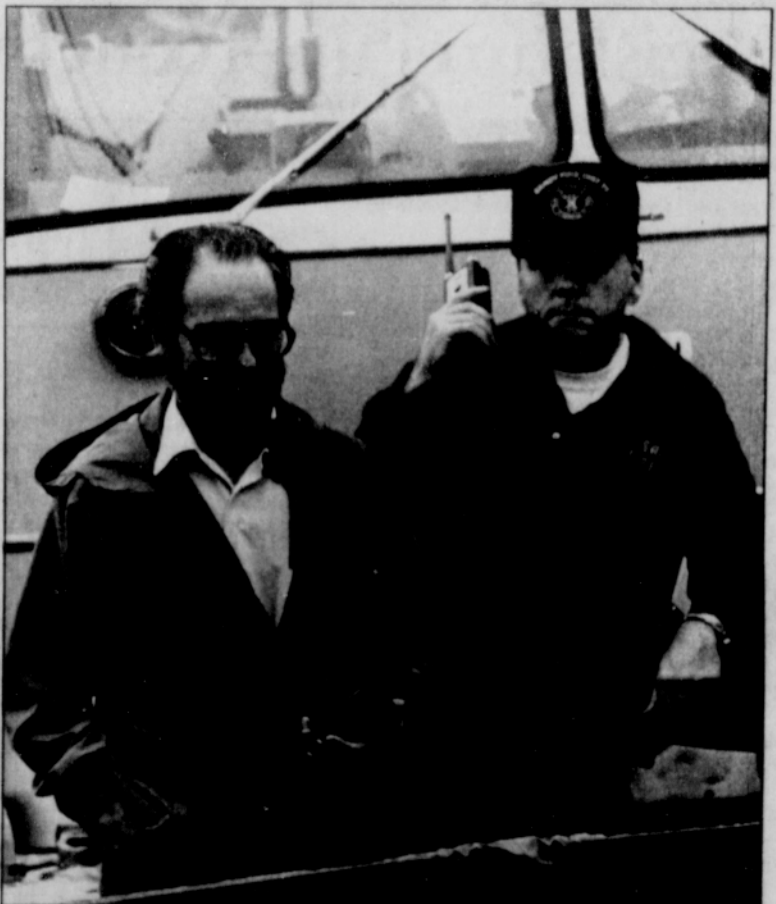
out a scale on how much water can be delivered continuously in any area of the fire district—information that is extremely useful to the district in long-range planning.

"For a ways out in the district, we know we can deliver fire flows of 1,200 gallons per minute consistently," Gallagher said.

"Through (the drill) process, we've been able to point out some

things in our own operation to make it easier," he added.

That could include reconfiguring the 6,000-gallon tank. Because it stretches to a 19-foot diameter, it can block a side road in a rural area. By redesigning it to an oblong shape, traffic flow could be maintained more normally and, possibly, reduce chaos at the scene of a fire.



John Mothershead and Sandy Fire Chief Bob Rathke oversee the drill.



Staff photo

Darrell Dempster is dubbed a member of the Royal Order of the Bear during Fourth of July ceremonies kicking off Sandy Mountain Days. Princess Ann Marie Amstad and husband Dan look on.

City allows new uses in industrial zone

by DAN DILLON

A new city policy, adopted Tuesday evening by the Sandy City Council, will allow commercial businesses as conditional uses in areas zoned for light industrial activity, if they are "supportive and complementary" to surrounding industries.

Despite objections by Councilor Tim Ward that the wording is too subjective, the council eliminated a previous condition that a commercial business must be controlled by a traffic signal.

Ward objected to "supportive and complementary."

"I think it is too vague," he said. "I think it opens up the 'good old boy' stuff that gotten us in trouble before."

City Planner Don Wilson said good screening by city staff will keep the south side of U.S. Highway 26 from becoming inundated with commercial uses.

One concern Wilson expressed is that future industrial industrial development may not be able to com-

pete with commercial development in terms of land price, if the new policy opens up industrial lands for commercial purposes. "The burden sits on the shoulders of the applicants to show what they're doing is supportive," he said.

Ward said recent completion of a lengthy comprehensive plan makes it inappropriate to turn around and allow commercial uses in an industrial area.

"You're opening a can of worms," he cautioned. "I really believe to solve one person's problem, you're creating a new problem."

After adopting the policy, the council granted Al Russell Tire Co. a temporary conditional use permit to operate as a retailer and tire manufacturer. The firm rents space from Bison Industries in Sandy Industrial Park.

In other action, the Sandy City Council:

—Voted to annex 3.9 acres of land on the west side of 362nd Drive into the city of Sandy. The land, owned by

Frank Evanoski, will be designated for light industrial use if the annexation is approved by the Portland Metropolitan Boundary Commission, according to Wilson.

—Approved a new policy on the time allowed for applicants to meet off-street parking requirements. Under the new plan, the city manager may grant a six-month ex-

tension if weather conditions would create a hardship. Financial considerations of an applicant are not included in the policy.

The owner must post a performance bond, irrevocable letter of credit or full cash escrow with the city. The city engineer will determine estimated costs of improvements and that will constitute the amount.

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WEATHER

Extended Forecast: Showers at time Thursday through Saturday. Highs, 65 to 70; Lows, 45 to 55.
Precipitation: July Total: 0.55 inches; 0.46 inches below normal.
1983 Total: 26.48 inches; 6.83 inches above normal.