



Submitted Photo

An aerial view of the Miles Crossing area slated for a proposed 48-unit apartment complex.

Complex: A condition of approval was to show proof of adequate water and sewer connections

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the area has enough water and sewer capacity long term for the development.

A condition of approval was for Krueger to show proof of adequate water and sewer connections.

The Planning Commission acknowledged the property has access to water and sewer but still denied the project based on a letter from the Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board retracting their approval. The sewer board sent a previous letter of support, but it was sent without following formal procedure.

Denying a project based on a sewer board's mistake does not follow the law, David Noren, Krueger's lawyer, said.

"The test is not whether a specific project has received 'approval' or has a contract to receive services," Noren wrote in the appeal. "The test, for purposes of a zone change, is whether there are public facilities appropriate to the zone."

Krueger and his lawyer are expected to present evidence showing water and sewer capacity is available.

Krueger lowered the pro-



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Attorney David Noren, left, chats with his client Richard Krueger at Clatsop County Planning Commission hearing on a proposed development project.

'The test, for purposes of a zone change, is whether there are public facilities appropriate to the zone.'

David Noren
Richard Krueger's lawyer

posed development from 168 units to 48 units to accommodate concerns. The location is the site of a proposed 36-lot subdivision for single-family

homes approved last year by the Planning Commission. Krueger wants to rezone the property for multifamily use, which the Planning Commission denied.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

An apartment complex is being proposed on land north of Lewis and Clark Elementary School.

Lead test: Astoria is still trying to determine the source of its issues

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Astoria High School after finding above-benchmark amounts of lead. Seaside found above-benchmark lead levels coming from a hose in a boiler room and a sink in a concession stand. Jeffery said Warrenton is still waiting on the results from the city.

Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes said recent lead testing cost his district maybe \$200 to \$300, with the city doing some of the work. If it ends up costing thousands, Hoppes said, then he will knock on some legislators' doors.

"We have a responsibility to make sure kids are safe when they're in school," Hoppes said.

One striking result Hoppes said he learned is how bad lead is in homes compared to schools.

"It's warranted, obviously, because it's popping up all over the state," Jeffery said of the new requirements, adding there might be a difference between what is warranted and what is funded by the state.

Johnson said she's not holding her breath for the state to fund testing.

Water fixtures have often been the culprit of high lead readings. Hoppes said Astoria is still trying to determine the source of its issues. Johnson said Knappa's issues probably come from the taps. Jeffery said hopefully the issue will make manufacturers more cognizant of what they put in parts.



Craig Hoppes

Agency: 'I don't want managers ... I want leaders.'

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Better performance, however, is about leadership. "We're putting a lot of effort into hiring folks who are going to be strong, strong leaders," she said. "I don't want managers in my organization. I want leaders."

The focus on management has overshadowed some of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare's successes. Baker cited what she considers an exceptional early psychosis program, supported employment that helps patients find work, outreach to the developmentally disabled and placing clinicians in schools.

The agency has also opened a crisis respite center in Warrenton.

County commissioners, who chose not to pub-

licly criticize Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare even when it was apparent the agency was imploding, now acknowledge there was a lack of collaboration between the county and the agency's former leadership team. Commissioner Dirk Rohne described it as "a vacuum, I guess, to put it politely."

Moore said he is meeting with mental-health experts to help the county clearly establish expectations for the agency. Rohne credited Rich Mays, who served as interim county manager after Scott Somers resigned last year, and Moore for their responses.

"I'm excited about the future of these issues," Rohne said.

Moore cautioned that there is still work to do. "Let's not declare victory and go home," he said.

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