Settlement: 'If they feel I need to step aside, I will'

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"I'm not an accountant and I ran (the pageant) as a mom-and-pop organization, and kept it afloat," she said. "I thought I had all the documentation, but when I needed it most, when the DOJ wanted it, I didn't have it.'

Phillips said she plans to meet with City Manager Mark Winstanley and fellow city councilors "to find out their feelings" as to whether she should retain her

council position.

"If they feel I need to step aside, I will," she said. "I don't want to, because there are things I haven't finished doing.'

Mayor Jay Barber said he discussed the Department of Justice agreement with Winstanley, but will not make a recommendation "until we have an opportunity to sit down with Dana and determine what her response is going to be. I think it will be totally up to her to make a decision on that.'

'THERE'S NOT A FELONY INVOLVED. IT'S MORE WHETHER SHE FEELS SHE WANTS TO BE IN THE PUBLIC EYE AND SERVE IN THAT SITUATION. WE'LL TALK IT OVER AND SAY: 'DANA, WE'LL SUPPORT WHATEVER DECISION YOU MAKE.'

Jay Barber | Seaside mayor

He said nothing in the agreement "eliminates her eligibility to stay on the the public eye and serve in that situation. We'll talk it over and say: 'Dana, we'll support whatever decision you make.""

Steve Phillips declined to comment.

The school district board president "has been an excellent member of the board for over 20 years," Superintendent Sheila Roley said. "From my understanding of the agreement, there is nothing to indicate that Steve and Dana had any personal gain from their work with the

Roley said there is no concern among school district officials of crossover between pageant management and school district business operations. "As far

Miss Oregon pageant."

as I can interpret the document, it doesn't provide any evidence there was personal gain," she said.

Roley said she had no comment on the school district's process moving forward. "That's a conversation that will be among the board members," she said.

Minnick: Author's wife and local piano teacher are helping

Continued from Page A1

"This is an extension of the Institute of Fun, bringing it to Astoria, and it's also a realization of a dream of mine to do a sideshow that's more performance art than it is freakiness," Minnick said.

Helping Minnick is his wife, business organizer Mickki Langston and local piano teacher Paul Brady

as director of music.

"We want our community to be a place that is really open and accessible for everyone," Langston said. "Part of what we will be doing with the event is contributing some of the proceeds to accessibility projects in the city ... improvement of infrastructure to make sure people can get around and do the things

they need to do in everyday life and enjoy the community."

Along with freaks, the effort is gathering volunteers — "clowns, mostly clowns," Minnick said to help run the show, and sponsors to make sure performers are compensated.

People can apply to be a volunteer or freak in the show at astoriafreakshow. com by April 1.

Johnson: 'I just can't understate how negative my reaction is'

Continued from Page A1

council. There's not a felony

involved. It's more whether

she feels she wants to be in

idea he'd forgotten to share with the committee: a plan to allow citizens to select one of five agencies targeted for audits in the coming year.

State audits are supposed to be an objective and nonpartisan evaluation of how well an agency is performing its appointed tasks and managing its resources.

Sen. Elizabeth State

Steiner Hayward, D-Portland, reacted first to Memmott's proposal. "I'm dubious," she said.

State Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, the committee's co-chairwoman, was blunter. "I'm incredulous," she said, saying the concept would amount to "pandering to public opinion."

The other co-chair, state Rep. Dan Rayfield, D-Corvallis, joined the criticism, calling the idea "a very manipulative tool."

Under heavy fire, Memmott hastily apologized, but that did nothing to mollify lawmakers' concerns.

"I just can't understate how negative my reaction is," said Johnson, who along with Steiner Hayward co-chairs the Joint Ways and Means Committee which writes the state - and Richardson's — budget.

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