WLFEA from page 1A

Contract negotiators have been unable to reach a middle ground on a number of issues, said Schick, and Financial Officer Dina McClure suggested a change in the individuals negotiating could improve the situation.

"With the breakdown in constructive negotiations, the district requested that both sides go to mediation," said Schick, who explained that the first mediation session was held Oct. 8, with a second meeting set to take place Nov 4.

"During the first session, we did see some positive movement to move us towards a possible agreement," Schick said. "Unfortunately, we still have not received any cooperation from

the union in the form of any ic increase in SVFR responses, McClure presented an over-

tures and an office equipment to the storm that came through

WLFEA participation in the said. August Sweet Creek fire has been received in the amount of nificant impact, not only for

of Operations Matt House Response (MCR) team. showed a slight increase in call response volume for EMS for dinates the program which sup-September from this year to ports the community in areas last, but a much more dramat-

counterproposals despite what from 78 last September, to 168 we were initially promised. As this year. The upswing reflects with SVFR, we are hopeful the in an annual increase from 252 may be suited to discussion, new union lead negotiator will at this time last year, to 508 at enable us to reach a contract this point in 2020 — a 49 peragreement sooner rather than cent increase — with three months remaining. "Increases in fire and gener-

view of the monthly expendi- al service calls was due in part on Labor Day weekend, which She also reported the ex- caused a huge influx of calls pected reimbursement for the through that period," House Another program with a sig-

Florence but surrounding com-Reports from Division Chief munities, is the Mobile Crisis ings for the MCR program."

Lori Severance, LCSW, coorthat are not necessarily criminal

do not require first responders. These include issues which

empathy and advice.

"Several meetings were held this past month with Kathy Smith, Lane County contract facilitator, and Jason Hawkins, CEO of Peace Harbor Hospital, to transition the MCR Case Manager position from being a PeaceHealth employee to being an MCR worker who will work part-time as the MCR Case Manager," said Severance. "This will not only be more efficient of accomplishment, according zational expense to the public in but will also result in a cost sav-

Negotiations have also begun to allow PeaceHealth emergency department staff to request an MCR response for patients with mental health, trauma-re-

would increase MCR's ability to provide to inform and educate address the mental health needs in the Florence area in a much the need for the public support more comprehensive and im- of that levy. mediate manner than simply by police referral.

Another issue discussed in the meeting, brought to directors by Schick, was the retention roll out of the information campaign for the district's upcoming levy request.

directors that hiring Loomis would be a significant advantage in placing the request for financial support before voters. Loomis' presentation covered

or violent in nature and which lated or homeless issues. This the services she was willing to the public about the levy and

Loomis was asked a few questions regarding her \$60,000 service fee, and for clarification on what additional expenses might be expected. The board then of Liz Loomis in public affairs to agreed to revisit the proposal at coordinate efforts related to the a later time, with additional information in hand.

Directors also discussed PERS issues and how best to Loomis has a strong record present that impending organito Schick, who has worked with an attempt to educate residents her firm in the past. He assured on this major financial obliga-

There were no director comments and the meeting was adiourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 19.

COMMITTEE from page 1A

that we want to work with them not govern them or judge

This comment was well received and was emblematic of a new approach to the purchase and display of art in Florence one that takes the personalities out of the equation and focuses on the end result of providing an economically beneficial and

to Florence. City council ex-officio memper Councilor Woody Woodbury was supportive of this

expansion of communication content - and what some between PAC and the public. voiced was a seemingly closed He also applauded another circle of input — was the main idea discussed by Vice Chair Jo catalyst for FURA funding be-Beaudreau, encouraging PAC to ing redirected away from the focus not only on the visual arts, PAC. When this shift occurred, but also drama, poetry, culinary part of a growing public conflict and performance arts.

has surfaced in the past two ture FURA funding for art was years has been funding for eliminated. PAC. The original relationship between PAC and the Florence city-supported options for the to the committee, how much it (FURA) was supportive, with dynamic has forced PAC to re- it. And we have that plan, it is funds from FURA used to pur- consider its mission and how chase the Quince Street Mural.

between Mayor Joe Henry and One of the main issues that Councilor Joshua Greene, fu-

to implement that mission

Springer changed nature of the PAC process by reminding members that there was a way for PAC to move forward.

"We have a very detailed grant management plan that was done for us about a year ago. It essentially lays out month by month and by organization PAC was left with few where grant money is available ours," Springer said.

addressed the these possible grant opportunities more directly in the future. The final PAC workplan will

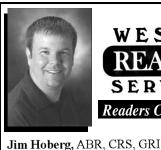
be consolidated by Moehrke, adding suggestions from members to the previously uncompleted goals of PAC, then have this type of a program include them ready for presentation to the full council in November.

Moehrke then presented one topic for members to consider in an attempt to expand what traditional activities and at a visually appealing component Urban Development Agency purchase of art pieces. This is and what you have to do to get PAC can do to keep the public lower cost for participation. involved safely with public art. One of the projects is a "Coastal scheduled for Nov. 30. For more

tee or other forum to address to coastal communities by Oregon State University.

The idea would be to identify unique art-related locales or outdoor art installations which people could travel to and find on their own. The advantages of avoidance of large groups, as well as promoting outside activities related to the scavenger hunt that would be safer than

The next PAC meeting is



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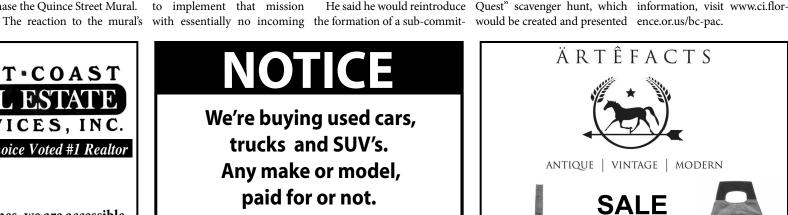
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