

Housing from A1

included the full package: a parking area, athletic field, asbestos abatement, some demolition and the rebuilding of the gym.

Though initial costs were estimated by the school district to be around \$900 thousand for the whole endeavor, the discovery of additional structural issues shot the cost of maintaining the gym alone up to around \$1 million.

With the other items still on the price list, final estimates on the first option came to more than \$2 million — more than double what was initially expected.

A second option, which excluded salvaging the gym, dropped those costs to between \$800 and \$900 thousand — still not an entirely attractive option for a district trying to manage a gradually draining bond fund.

Lastly, option three was to sell the property off with conditions.

This April, the school board enlisted the services of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Chief Financial Officer Howard Schussler to facilitate a dialogue regarding these options.

“The intent was being able to really thoroughly go through these [options],” said South Lane School District Superintendent Larry Sullivan. “And Howard’s really a masterful facilitator — he makes sure everybody gets heard and that we really exhaustively go through these things.”

In considering the third option, the board also received advice from the city on rezoning and how it could play into the city’s housing plans.

According to a strategy adopted earlier this year from the city’s latest hous-

ing needs analysis, the city committed to working with the school district to look at surplus lands and how they may help the city meet its housing needs.

“One of the major things they were looking at was how the city can help the school district figure out what to do with this property,” said City Planner Amanda Ferguson, “and more specifically, how can we meet some of our housing needs with this property?”

In May, the board voted unanimously to sell the property under the assumption it could be rezoned and that abatement of the asbestos could be stipulated upon sale.

“We want to be good community members and if we couldn’t afford to build a big complex there or salvage that, what could we do?” explained Sullivan. “And the goal was really to find some way to work with the city — which we did collaborate with — to figure out a way where this could be potentially what they also need, which is housing.”

Though appraisers at Duncan & Brown put the property value at around \$745,000, Sullivan said the sale is likely to come in around \$300 or \$400 thousand due to the necessary abatement and demolition work.

Local opinions

Despite the board’s unanimity on selling and rezoning, not all local residents have agreed with the plan.

According to one area resident who asked not to be named, housing was not first on his list.

“I’d just as soon [prefer] it wasn’t residential,” he said. “Looking back, they’re doing the new swimming pool. What I think it should’ve been in the first place was a big rec center.”

As part of the 2016 proposed bond projects, the

school district is currently renovating the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center.

“It would’ve been nice to have just a big rec center where people can go,” said the resident. “Even if you pay monthly dues, that would’ve been great. I would rather see something like that ...”

Another resident of the Harrison area, Simon Martinez, had heard of the rezoning but was somewhat indifferent about the municipal machinations at work.

“I kind of figure they’re gonna do what they’re gonna do,” he said. “I mean, they can talk, make people feel like they have something to do with what they’re going to do with it. But my experience is just that they’re making people feel like they have a say in what’s going happen — but they’re gonna do what they’re gonna do.”

For his own part, Martinez was happy to concede that control to the district as long as life in the area maintained a level of quality.

“They can do whatever they want around here and it’s not going make it as bad as where I moved from,” he said. “I hope they don’t do anything that messes up property values in that area, but again, you can just hope, right?”

In a July 22 City Council meeting with Harrison’s rezoning on the agenda, resident Molly Patterson expressed her disappointment with the rezoning and the lack of effectiveness dissenting voices seemed to have on the topic.

Previously, Patterson and other concerned residents had attended a June 19 Planning Commission meeting to voice their discontent with the rezoning issue.

A request by *The Sentinel* to speak with some of the other residents who appeared at the Planning Commission meeting was not answered.

In both public hearings, residents were told that their concerns could not be effectively addressed at the respective venues, in large part due to the fact that each panel’s responsibilities were simply to ensure that applications were legally viable.

From a municipal perspective, hands were tied. And as future public hearings on the topic will follow, the process of civic engagement may become even harder.

“That can get really complicated for people,” Ferguson said, “because they are looking at multiple applications and they need to be aware of what the concerns are for each one and address their concerns directly to that criteria.”

While city and school district officials encourage civic engagement, the question of where and when to effectively render public opinion remains a curiosity for some.

School districts, for example, are not required to allow public comment, but meetings are required to be held in public.

“A school board meeting is a meeting for the board to do work in public. It’s not a public meeting in the same way as other meetings are,” said Sullivan.

The board has regular sessions once a month, which are announced on the district’s website, and in which public comment is usually allowed. Depending on the project, some work sessions are open for comment as well, such as the case with the closing of Latham School.

In the case of Harrison, the process has been on the table for quite some time.

See **SCHOOL 9A**




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<p>Calvary Baptist Church 77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290 Pastor: Riley Hendricks Sunday School: 9:45am Worship: 11:00am The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm</p>	<p>Hope Fellowship United Pentecostal Church 100 S. Gateway Blvd. 541-942-2061 Pastor: Dave Bragg Worship: 11:00am Sunday Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday www.hopefellowshipupc.com “FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE”</p>	<p>St. Andrews Episcopal Church 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050 Rev. Lawrence Crumb “Church with the flags.” Worship: Sunday 10:30am All Welcome</p>
<p>Church of Christ 420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565 Sunday Service: 10:30am</p>	<p>Living Faith Assembly 467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612 Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome) Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)</p>	<p>Seventh-day Adventist Church 820 South 10th Street 541-942-5213 Pastor: Kevin Miller Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00</p>
<p>Cottage Grove Bible Church 1200 East Quincy Avenue 541-942-4771 Pastor: Bob Singer Worship 11am Sunday School: 9:45am AWANA age 3-8th Grade, Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm www.cgbible.org</p>	<p>Non-Denominational Church of Christ 1041 Pennoyer Ave 541-942-8928 Preacher: Tony Martin Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm www.pennoyeravecoc.com</p>	<p>Trinity Lutheran Church 6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373 Pastor: James L. Markus Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups tlccg.com</p>
<p>Cottage Grove Faith Center 33761 Row River Rd. 541-942-4851 Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueff www.cg4.tv Full Children’s Ministry available Services: 9:00am & 10:45am</p>	<p>Old Time Gospel Fellowship 103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999 Pastor: Jim Edwards Sunday Service: 10:00am Join in Traditional Christian Worship</p>	<p>United Methodist Church 334 Washington 541-942-3033 New Pastor Craig Pesti- Strobel Worship 10:30am umcgrove.org</p>
<p>Delight Valley Church of Christ 33087 Saginaw Rd. East 541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend Two Services: 9am - Classic in the Chapel 10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches 1025 N. 19th St. 541-942-3420 Father John J. Boyle Holy Mass: Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM Sunday - 10:30 PM For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM Saturdays or by appointment</p>	<p>“VICTORY” Country Church 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913 Pastor: Barbara Dockery Worship Service: 10:00am Message: “WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES”</p>
<p>First Baptist Church 301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242 Pastor: David Chhangle Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Youth Wednesday 6:30pm cgfirstbaptist.com</p>		<p>CRESWELL: Creswell Presbyterian Church 75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419 Rev. Seth Wheeler Adult Sunday School 9:15am Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am website.creswellpres.org</p>

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