

Court hears suggestions on compensation changes

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Compensation proposals for county employees and elected officials were raised during the Grant County Court meeting May 8.

Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett said she fully supported creating a full-time human resources position for the county, and she offered some suggestions on how to reorganize the county's compensation system.

Stinnett suggested eliminating some job categories as well as stipends for work outside of a job description. She also described the benefits of implementing a step system based on training and merit.

Commissioner Jim Hamsher said he agreed that employees should be paid for what they do and not for how much education they have. He noted that some employees handle responsibilities far beyond their official education levels and that they might leave if not compensated for that work.

Commissioner Sam Palmer raised his earlier suggestion that Hamsher be compensated for taking on additional work during the April floods while County Judge Scott Myers was absent for medical reasons.



The Eagle/Richard Hanners
Grant County Justice of the Peace Kathy Stinnett addresses the county court May 8. Seated left to right are Grant County Economic Development Coordinator Allison Field and economic development specialist Beth Simonsen.

Laurie Wright, who will head up the county's new human resources office, said that suggestion could "open up a can of worms" as other elected officials would request the same benefit and then the process would "snowball" to other employees.

Wright also addressed earlier opinions raised in a court meeting about appointing someone to fill in for Myers in his absence, noting that only the governor could do that.

Hamsher said he agreed with Palmer and suggested putting the



The Eagle/Richard Hanners
Grant County Roadmaster Alan Hickerson addresses the county court May 8.

commissioner compensation topic on a future court agenda.

In other court news:
• The court approved several requests from Grant County Roadmaster Alan Hickerson, including purchasing a new low-boy trailer to haul road graders, advertising

for a new position at Long Creek and purchasing a shipping container to store flood supplies.

Hickerson said he'd like to store pallets of filled sandbags, bales of unfilled bags and a sandbag-filling machine in the shipping container to keep the bags out of harmful sunlight and ready for instant use.

Hamsher said the April floods caused an estimated \$1.5 million in damages to public property and maybe more than that to private property. He said one landowner needed numerous dump truck loads of material to repair a private road.

• The court appointed five volunteers to the Transient Room Tax Review Committee: Jenny Shaw, Karin Bartish, Larry Pierce, Bob Quinton and Mike Springer.

• The court issued a proclamation designating the month of May from this year forward as Older Americans Month in Grant County.

The proclamation noted that, according to U.S. Census estimates, 29.6 percent of the county's residents are 65 years or older compared to 17.1 percent for the state and 15.6 percent for the nation.

Hamsher pointed out that many committee volunteers serving the county are older people.

COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of May 8:

Concealed handgun licenses: 6

Average inmates: 11

Bookings: 11

Releases: 6

Arrests: 1

Citations: 3

Fingerprints: 6

Civil papers: 15

Warrants processed: 5

Asst./welfare check: 0

Search and rescue: 0

May 6: Edward Lix, 63, Orangevale, California, was cited for exceeding the posted speed, 44/25 zone.

May 6: Joshua Stalcup, 30, Burns, was cited for violating the basic rule 75/55 zone.

May 8: James Jones, 20, John Day, was cited for driving without insurance.

Justice Court

• Violation of basic rule:

Norman R. Woodham Jr., 71, Prineville, April 16, 75/55 zone, fined \$165; Michael S. Bass, 29, Prairie City, April 14, 71/55 zone, fined \$125; Sherry L. Dress, 71, John Day, April 3, 80/55 zone, fined \$225.

• Exceeding speed limit: Tina L. Stearly, 57, Canyon City, April 14, 81/65 zone, fined \$165; Chelsey L. McDaniel, 34, Prairie City, April 25, 74/65 zone, fined \$140.

• Violation speed limit: Daniel W. Wagner, 26, Hines, March 17, 82/65 zone, fined \$265.

• Driving uninsured: Michele Trimble, 43, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 17, fined \$265; Stephen P. Hancock, 43, Canyon City, April 2, fined \$265, April 13, fined \$265, April 16, fined \$265.

• Driving while suspended: Michele Trimble, 43, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 17, fined \$440.

• Failure to register vehicle: Michele Trimble, 43, Mt. Vernon, Jan. 17, fined \$115.

• Failure to renew registration: Stephen P. Hancock, 43, Canyon City, April 2, fined \$115, April 13, fined \$115.

• Failure to install an ignition interlock device: Daniel W. Wagner, 26, Hines, March 17, fined \$440.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 154 calls during the week of May 6-12, including:

• John Day Police Department

May 6: Responded to a reported death on South Hillcrest Road in John Day.

May 6: Received a harassment report from an apartment on East Main Street in John Day.

May 6: Advised of a harassment complaint at a mobile home park on West Main Street in John Day.

May 7: Responded to Northwest Second Avenue in John Day. Robert D. Herrera was arrested and charged with domestic assault.

May 10: Dispatched to a report of a rattlesnake at a mobile home park on West Main Street in John Day.

May 10: Received a call about a suspicious vehicle on East 11th Street in John Day.

May 11: Responded to a report of suspicious circum-

stances at an automotive shop on South Canyon Boulevard in John Day.

• Grant County Sheriff's Office

May 6: Advised of suspicious circumstances on West Franklin Avenue in Dayville.

May 6: Received a theft report from Laycock Creek Road.

May 8: Advised of a burglary report on North Cozart Avenue in Prairie City.

May 8: Responded to Highway 26 near Austin Junction for a noninjury crash.

May 10: Advised of a crash with injuries on Highway 395 near Meadowbrook Pass.

May 10: Received a domestic dispute call from Ingle Street in Mt. Vernon.

May 10: Advised of a suspicious vehicle on Patterson Drive in Canyon City.

May 10: Received a domestic dispute call from Ingle Street in Mt. Vernon.

May 10: Advised of a theft on Wilderness Lane in John Day.

May 11: Received a report of a theft at the Billy Fields Campground up Fields Creek Road.

May 11: Advised of a suspicious vehicle at a church in Canyon City.

• John Day ambulance

May 6: Dispatched with Seneca ambulance to Park Avenue in Seneca for an elderly woman.

May 6: Responded to Northwest Third Avenue in John Day for a hospital transport.

May 6: Transported a patient to the hospital in John Day.

May 6: Received a 911 call from South Washington Street in Prairie City.

May 7: Dispatched with Prairie City ambulance to North Cozart Avenue in Prairie City for a man who had fallen.

May 8: Responded with Prairie City ambulance to North Cozart Avenue in Prairie City for a man who was unable to move.

May 8: Received a call from Aslin Avenue in Mt. Vernon for an 81-year-old man with abdominal pain.

May 8: Responded to East Main Street in John Day for a 46-year-old man with uncontrolled vomiting.

John Day police were summoned for an unattended death.

May 9: Received a 911 call from Northeast Seventh Avenue in John Day.

May 11: Transported a patient to the hospital in John Day.

May 11: Responded to Hansen Lane in Mt. Vernon for a 96-year-old man who was nonresponsive.

May 11: Dispatched to Southwest Violet Street in Mt. Vernon for a 70-year-old woman with difficulty breathing.

May 12: Responded to a mobile home park on West Main Street in John Day for a 36-year-old woman with an electrical burn.

• John Day fire

May 6: Responded to Luce Creek Road for a report of a hay field fire.

• Prairie City fire

May 7: Advised of a possible fire near the water tower northeast of Prairie City.

May 9: Received a report of a possible fire near the timber mill site west of Prairie City.

• Forest Service

May 9: Advised of a possible fire in the Cinna-bar Mountain area south of Mt. Vernon.

PRAIRIE AMERICAN LEGION 0106 WISHES TO ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS OF OUR SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENT.

★1st: \$300.00 gift certificate from Better Blooms & Gardens – Roger Lee

★2nd: Garden Wagon & Accessories from John Day True Value Hardware – Fran Bunch

★3rd: Woodland Ripple Afghan handmade and donated by Fonda and Ted Thompson – Ray Thielke

We thank our Sponsors and Participants and Congratulate the Winners!

Robbins Farm Equipment

3850 10th St. Baker City 541-523-6377

62302 Pierce Rd. La Grande 541-963-6577

1160 S Egan Burns 541-573-6377

86812 Christmas Valley Hwy. Christmas Valley 541-576-2160

American Legion Auxiliary
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10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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