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Boardman seeks funds for expansion costs

By MARY LEE MARLOW

The Boardman City Council approved a sewer rate increase at its meeting last week, to become effective immediately.

A water rate increase is in the legislative and engineering process. A boost in the city's tax base also was proposed, and in the offering is a bond issue that is expected to go to the voters this year. It would raise some cash as part of the matching funds on sewer and water projects.

The new sewer rate will be \$4.50 a month replacing the old rate of \$2. City officials said the system has been operating at a deficit and the new rate is needed to carry out the expansion program.

The new rate has been broken down to show \$2.73 for

loan repayment; 27 cents for operation; 86 cents, depreciation and replacement facility; and 64 cents for depreciation and replacement of collecting system.

Mayor Dewey West stated he could foresee a need for a larger operating budget for a full-time city manager and other employees in the future.

Stanley Wallulis, consulting engineer, said the city must carefully monitor growth in the next few years, and if they didn't have the staff to watch those things the city could "end up in a lot of trouble."

West also said they needed to embark on public information program to explain growth problems to residents and to insure that proposed budgets and bonds are accepted.

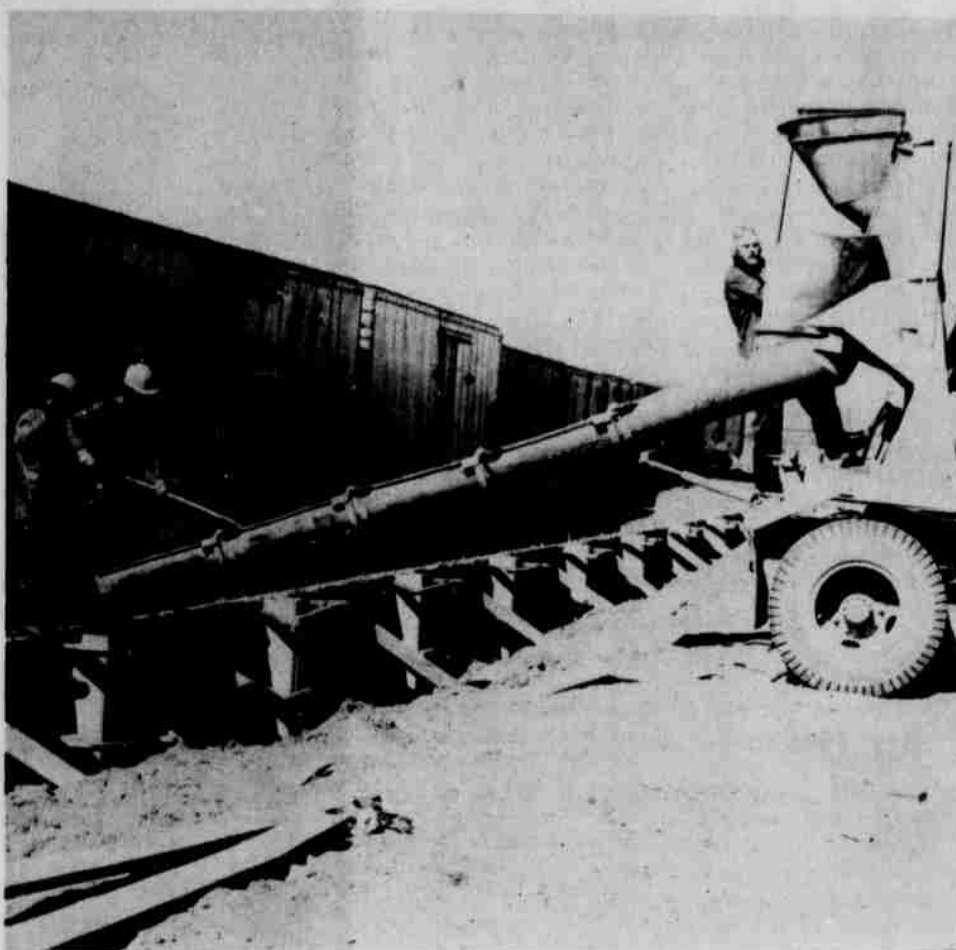
In other action the council approved paying volunteer firemen \$3 for each training session and for answering fire alarms. The rural district would pay the full amount for rural calls and half of the

training class costs, according to Chief Larry Phillips.

Gene Trumbull and Jerry Watts were appointed to the city's budget committee, which meets the first time April 15.

Attorney M.H. Van Valkenburgh proposed that the city and housing developers, Desert Hills and Boardman Development, have a meeting to work out a development agreement on utilities.

Engineer Wallulis said the Port of Morrow Commission has withdrawn its opposition to site No. 1, proposed by the city as a lagoon location for its new sewer project. The site is east of Boardman, and surrounded by port land. The commission has been opposing the site. It was reported state and federal environmental agencies favored the site, and the agencies have a voice in the naming of a location because of grant funds that may become available.



Workmen at Desert Magic are shown pouring a foundation for a new potato processing plant, at Boardman. The new addition will be ready this summer.

Potato blight found in area

Phytophthora infestans (late blight), the culprit in the potato famine of Ireland in 1845, has been positively identified as the cause of heavy damage in a shipment of potatoes which arrived in Oregon from Washington last October.

It took until late February to prove beyond a doubt that the damage was indeed caused by the late blight organism, a fungus, harmless to human beings, that is known to have existed in the northwest for many years. Never until now, however, has it been more than a relatively insignificant pest. In fact, the Oregon Department of Agriculture shipping standards allow up to 2 per cent of a shipment to contain late blight before the shipment is diverted from markets.

In October 1973 a shipment, representing the harvest of more than 400 acres in Southeastern Washington arrived at the Lamb-Weston processing plant near Hermiston. A department shipping point inspector found up to 25 percent of the shipment to be infected with a blight condition.

At the request of Lamb-Weston, surprised over the extent of the damage, samples were sent to department headquarters in Salem for identification. The department's plant pathology laboratory determined that the damage was caused by the fungus, Phytophthora infestans, commonly known as late blight.

The testing might have stopped there, but the significance of the damage dictated that further confirmation be found. Meanwhile, the disease had spread among stored russets at Lamb-Weston to 40 percent of the potatoes from the Washington farm.

Four samples were sent to the foremost authorities of Phytophthora in the Western Hemisphere, a team of scientists headed by Dr. R.J. Young at West Virginia University.

Dr. Young's team, after conducting a complicated identification process, confirmed the findings of department plant pathologists.

The administrator of the department's plant division, George Moose, said the blight poses a potentially serious threat to the potato industry in Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington. Scientists at Washington State University and Oregon State University have been asked to study the problem and recommend ways in which to deal with it.

Moose said that late blight has not been a problem in the past because the climate here normally is not suitable for its growth, but changes in farming methods along the Oregon-Washington border have created a new climate in the upper reaches of the soil.

He said circle irrigation, which provides constant moisture, coupled with cool nighttime temperatures, apparently have altered the climate enough to give rise to the problem.

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Brand fees to increase

Rerecording of livestock brands in Oregon would cost \$10 instead of the present \$5 under a notice of intended action filed March 1 by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Gene Kunkle, administrator of the department's Livestock Division, said the new fee being proposed for rerecording is the same maximum as for the initial recording of livestock brands. The department's proposal is based on the increased cost of brand recording.

Under the proposal the \$10 fee would become effective April 26. Anyone having data, opinions or evidence pertaining to the proposal is to direct this material to Kunkle at the State Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Building, Salem, Oregon 97310. Deadline for them to be received is 5 p.m., Friday, March 29.

Persons desiring a public hearing at which to submit opinions, evidence or data, should direct requests for a hearing to Kunkle at the same address. These requests must be received in his office by April 1.

Port proposes \$4.8 million bond issue

The port of Morrow Commission passed a resolution agreement on the sale of two revenue bond issues totaling \$4,850,000 last week to finance construction of a potato processing plant.

Foster & Marshall of Seattle, Wn., has agreed to purchase the 25-year issues at 6.75 per cent interest.

The new plant will be built by Gourmet Foods of Metolius and Techbuilt Inc. of Bellevue, Wn. Jim Fitzgerald, a Techbuilt official, said construction would begin as soon as possible, to be completed by September. He said site preparation began about three weeks ago.

Availability of materials and plant equipment are major problems facing the builders. Fitzgerald said they were sending teams to factories to insure things going along on schedule.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harwood were honored with a housewarming at their new home in the east end Sunday evening when 34 of their friends had a potluck supper for them. The committee in charge included Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Black, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Marchek and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Daniels.

Mrs. Roy Ball was hostess for the Ladies Aid Society of Boardman Community Church at her home last week. Mrs. Leo Root was in charge of the devotional program. The ladies plan an all day work day at the church starting at 10 a.m. with a sack lunch at noon on their next meeting day, April 3.

Mrs. Hazel Miller will be hostess for an open house at her home Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. in honor of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Miller, recent newlyweds of Kent, Wn. Friends are invited to attend.

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Harvest Queen sought

The Boardman Harvest Festival Queen Contest will be held April 20 at Riverside High School auditorium.

To be selected are a queen and two princesses for the Sept. 6-8 festival.

All entries must be submitted to Mrs. Joe Bartlett, Boardman, by April 10. Any girl, between the ages of 16 and 19 who is a Morrow County resident is eligible to enter. Contestants must be 16 years old but not over 19 by April 1. They must be single and never married.

Out-of-county judges will base selections on talent, evening gown appearance and interview categories.

Parents of all applicants will be required to give their approval. The girls must be available to attend all the scheduled activities during their reign.

Contest committee members are Mrs. Bartlett, chairman; Mrs. Gene Trumbull, vice-chairman; Mrs. Vernon Russell, Mrs. Gary Pettys, Mrs. Edith Partlow, Mrs. Bill Bates and Mrs. Rupert Kennedy.

The Boardman Community Church invites the public to hear the Salem Academy Band and Choir, Sunday, March 17, at 11 a.m. The concert is scheduled for the entire morning worship service.

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College courses to be offered

The Heppner branch of the American Association of University Women recently asked people to indicate on a published questionnaire what courses they would like Blue Mountain Community College to offer in Morrow County.

The questionnaire was published in December and again last month. The number of people responding was small, 22 total, but enough interest has been generated for the college to offer several more classes in Heppner than have been offered previously.

The courses receiving the most response: art with 8 responding, foreign languages, 7; typing and history, 6 each; and anthropology, 5.

clothing construction, geology and writing, 5 each. Four people indicated interest in philosophy and three people each requested auto repair, economics, physical education, psychology and home repair. Such courses as consumer awareness, interior design, law for the layman, and literature were chosen by two each.

The AAUW committee and the Evening Division of Blue Mountain Community College are bringing courses to Morrow County, and encourage people wanting courses from BMCC to contact Jeannie Howell at 676-5002 or Liz Curtis at 676-9454, at any time.

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