

\$53,000 allocated

County buys clinic building

The Morrow County Court signed a purchase order with Boise Cascade Corp. on Feb. 26 for a \$42,000 modular medical clinic measuring 28 feet by 60 feet.

The county made a \$5,000 deposit on the clinic Thursday. The \$42,000 is the "key-in-the-door" price which includes the foundation.

Morrow County will do the necessary excavation of the lots. The two lots are being purchased from Valley View Estates at a price of \$9,000. County Judge Paul Jones reported that the lots had been valued at \$7,200 each but the price had been reduced to \$4,500 each.

The County Budget Committee, which was present at the Wednesday meeting, approved the expenditure of \$53,000 from the current year's revenue sharing funds for the clinic project. Previously \$30,000 of that amount had been approved for the clinic. The additional \$23,000 is from revenue sharing funds which have not been used this year.

The Boise Cascade representative present told the court that Drs. Joe Gifford and Richard Carpenter had flown to Eugene Saturday to look at the company's product

and were reportedly pleased with the court's choice.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital Administrator Ilene Wyman reported Friday that the two doctors have been approved by the hospital's medical staff. The medical staff consists of Drs. Wallace Wolff, L.D. Tibbles and H.S. Huber. The hospital board has also approved the use of two rooms in the hospital by the two new doctors for temporary use.

Jones told the Wednesday meeting that the city planning commission granted a conditional use permit to the county Monday for erection of the clinic on the proposed site. The commission has required that plans be submitted showing storm drainage, drive-ways, parking space for 15 vehicles and landscaping. Part of this will be done by Boise Cascade and part by City Engineer Steve Anderson.

April 15 is still the target date for completion of the new clinic, however, that date seemed in danger during much of Wednesday's meeting. Three local builders were present to express concern over the expenditure of funds on a modular and to question the procedure used by the court in awarding the con-

tract. Jones explained that the time limitation and limited funds could be met only by the modular type of building.

In answer to the protest that formal bids had not been called for, the Judge explained that the court had asked the legal opinion of District Attorney Dennis Doherty and Attorney Herman Winter. The legal opinion was that a contract for a commercial structure which does not exceed \$50,000 in a county such as Morrow is not required by law to be put up for bid. The court decided not to take the bid route because of added costs of having architect plans drawn up and the time delay factor.

Representatives of Mel Winter in Pendleton were present to protest the court's awarding of the bid on a structure larger than one they thought was wanted by the court or the doctors. The court voted to grant their request that negotiations be reopened. The court said it would accept proposals made that day but no later. The Winter representative told the court that they could come up with a proposal for a wider structure if that was what the court wanted, but they had been led to believe that the court wanted

a certain size within a stated price range.

Members of the court, budget committee and Doctors' Search Committee members who had visited the Mel Winter display and been present at a later meeting with the representatives, pointed out that on two different occasions they had asked the Mel Winter representative if the modular units were built any wider and were told the units were not. They added that they had not requested a different size because they understood a wider unit was not built until the Boise Cascade representative presented the 28-foot-wide unit to the court.

The Mel Winter representatives said they could make phone calls and get rough estimates that afternoon. Jones suggested that the court take a few days longer to let them bring in a new bid based on the court's specifications. Commissioners Homer Hughes and Warren McCoy said that would only delay things further, there had been enough delay as it was and a decision had to be made immediately.

Representatives of the Doctors' Search Committee were asked if Drs. Gifford and

Carpenter would indeed go somewhere else to set up practice if there was any more delay. The court was assured the doctors would. A committee spokesman told the court:

"These doctors have been very patient but they have been invited to practice elsewhere and told us last week they would have to take that offer if a decision could not be reached. Because they decided to come to Heppner, their contract with Dr. Easton in Pendleton has been terminated three months earlier than it would have been and they will soon be out of work."

"If we lose these doctors it will be very difficult to recruit other doctors to Heppner and our committee could not consider doing any further recruitment until there is a clinic ready for use by a doctor. Every doctor we have falked to has asked about clinic facilities. We could not waste the public's money on futile recruitment."

"We would like to make it clear that these doctors have not made any demands concerning the clinic. They have on several occasions been asked their opinion and have given the requested opinion."

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SPRINGTIME AGAIN—A forest scene between Johnson Creek and North Willow Creek.

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\$2,272,309 requested

Doherty explains record school budget

Morrow County School Supt. Matt Doherty spoke to the members of the chamber of commerce Monday on the new proposed school budget for the new year.

The proposed requirements for the 1975-76 school year amount to \$2,272,309, an increase of \$346,012 or 17.96 per cent over last year's budget.

Total resources amount to \$647,754. This sum is the money received for state support. However, the amount to be received is still up in the air, Doherty said. For at the time the budget was presented the amount was in the neighborhood of 20-25 per cent, but according to latest reports it may be increased to 30 per cent.

Taxes required to balance the budget amount to \$1,574,555, and taxes not to be received amount to \$190,402. Taxes not to be received are taxes that are levied and not collected.

Taxes within the 6 per cent limitation amount to \$439,771. This is the amount of money raised in Morrow County. For this reason all that is outside the 6 per cent limitation or \$1,325,186 must be raised by taxation.

"There is a considerable increase in the budget this year," said Doherty, "and it is one of those things we have grappled with, but because of the many factors involved, the committee has come back time and again, and the only solution we can come up with is inflation."

"The inflation figure is something that has to be faced, as it is the primary reason for the increase. The tax levy increase amounts to \$278,900, an increase of 18.8 per cent."

"The tax levy will cost \$2.20 per \$1,000 of the true cash value, and this figure is based on the assessed valuation of Morrow County, which is in excess of \$26 million."

"This tax rate will change as we now have property that is being re-appraised, and we also have some property that is not on the tax roll, namely some property in the north end of

the county," Doherty explained.

"The budget is divided into 11 areas, with administration at the head of the list. Administration includes salaries, one of the largest increases."

Although cost of living has risen 13.5 per cent, teacher salaries are increased 13 per cent.

"The board carried out negotiations with the taxpayer in mind, and the teachers are also concerned with the cost of living, so with this in mind and with the help of a mediator, they finally reached an agreement which amounts to a considerable increase," he said.

There are presently 91 certificated staff members and this figure also includes secretaries, persons who are not teachers but who deal with teaching.

"Paper products have zoomed, and they have increased more than 100 per cent within the past two years. The cost of textbooks has risen more than 20 per cent, and we are in the process of making some new adoptions this year, and this also had to be figured into this series."

"We are a rural school district and transportation is a big factor in our district," said Doherty. "We do transport a lot of our students, and we do have to maintain a bus fleet. The bus fleet is maintained just as any other type of equipment and depreciates and has to be replaced."

"We are replacing three new buses this year and we find that the cost is pretty high. We were underbudgeted in this area this year, and we planned on replacing buses until the board found that we were going to have to pinch pennies. So we are planning on purchasing last year's model bus and another that has some miles on it to stay within the budget figures."

Plant operation includes salaries that are also a factor. A custodial force operates and maintains the plant.

Heat, water and electricity were underbudgeted last year, he said, and although there was a considerable increase last year, these items have had to be increased again.

The school district also has a number of older buildings that have to be maintained and repaired, and they require a lot of upkeep.

"Retirement, social security and the likes, has climbed considerably for many of these areas are affected by salaries. The board did agree to increase their insurance support to the staff this year; the increase is up 31 per cent, the largest increase in the budget."

"Student activities are up 15.1 per cent, and one of the reasons for the increase is the interest in girls sports. The additional sports require more officiating and the officials are asking for more money. It is interesting to note that the increase in activities does not cost more than shown, but the collection of fees are used to offset student activities."

"Capital outlay, improvement of sites, shows a reduction of 45.2 per cent. This included the purchase of some new equipment, so the board decided to do without the equipment."

"Operation contingencies are up considerably and because we are unable to project the increase in student population. We hear all kinds of rumors and some figures regarding the population in the north end of the county, and we will probably use most of this money for temporary classrooms if they are needed for additional instruction."

"Although we have had an increase in salaries, the addition of six new teachers is also considered. Two of the teachers are for emergency purposes, as we are not sure what the situation will be in the north end, but we do anticipate an increase, and we feel that we will need at least two new teachers. The remainder of the teachers will be spread out in the various schools, with some working part

time. A federal program that has been operating at one school will have to be replaced with a district operated program this year."

"Today there are 1,322 students and it is interesting to note that at this time last year there were 1,106 students. When school opened this year there were 1,264 students. The increase of 216 students is the equivalent of another school the size of Ione, and the school district has been fortunate that the increase in students has been the way it has, for if the increase of 216 students had been all at the north end we would have had some real problems. The increase has come at the north end as well as Heppner High School and the elementary schools. Additional students mean more books and desks."

"We anticipate the same amount of increase next year, and if the increase comes we will also require additional teaching staff."

Following his talk on the budget Doherty was asked, "What are the options if the school budget does not pass?" "If the budget does not pass," he replied, "my first option is to take the budget back to the committee and it will make the necessary changes after reviewing the items, making the necessary cuts in the budget. It may be necessary to cut the six new teachers and the athletic programs that are underway."

"What affect will this have on girls sports?" "It will have some effect. I am sure," said Doherty, "as we are thinking of paying for some of the girls sports this year as this is included in the budget. As time goes on we will probably see demands for more girls sports."

Doherty stated that polling places will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the communities as well as the Lexington office.

OSHA rules state-enforced

Farmers must meet new safety code

Lee Ream, supervisor of the Accident Prevention Division of the Workmen's Compensation Board, Pendleton, addressed an audience of 70 farmers in the area Wednesday night at Heppner High School, advising them of changes in the State of Oregon's safety and first aid codes which go into effect April 1, 1975.

Many of the farms in the area will soon be visited by safety inspectors who will be looking for unsafe measures practiced by the farmer. Prior to making any inspections, the inspector will properly identify himself and then with the farmer accompanying him he will look for any violations.

What if the farmer isn't home when the inspector calls? "In many cases, Ream said, if the farmer is not at home when the inspector arrives, he must obtain permission from the farmer's wife, or in the absence of both, he may ask the foreman to show him about the ranch. It is the contention of the court that the foreman is the agent when the farmer is absent."

If the owner is home the inspector will make a check of shops and machinery. Upon completion of the inspection he will tell the farmer of the violations, if any, that he has found and what corrective measures need to be taken.

The inspector will file a report showing any violations and the farmer will receive a citation in the mail telling of the violations. Once the farmer receives the citation he has 15 days to ask for an extension of time to make the necessary corrections. Should the farmer refuse to ask for a time extension and the corrective measures not be made, the farmer will face a fine up to \$500.

Ream stated that about 2 per cent of the farms are in violation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

Ream stressed the point that the inspector is to make every effort to contact the farmer, his wife or an agent prior to making an investigation of the premises, and under no condition is the inspector to make a survey of the premises without the proper consent. Should he be asked to leave, the

inspector is to leave the property.

Ream also suggested that the farmer, when accompanying the inspector, also take notes of the various facilities and upon completion of the inspection notes of the farmer and those of the inspector should agree. The farmer will not receive a copy of the inspector's notes telling of the violations.

If any violation exists, the farmer will be sent a citation copied from the inspector's notes and sent by registered mail.

If the farmer decides to contest the inspector's findings there are six methods which can be used. However, most of the complaints between the farmer and the inspector are settled through an informal conference on the local level at the Pendleton office. The second step is through a formal conference at Salem. The remainder of the steps are through the courts, at which time the farmer must be represented by counsel.

Ream stated that inspectors working out of the Pendleton office are presently working seven counties, and the areas being inspected are the ones that have had accidents in the past. Any firm that has problems can be expected to be visited more often if they keep having accidents.

If any employer has seven or more employees at one time during the year he is required to keep a record of work related injuries and illnesses which occur on or after Jan. 1, 1975.

To clarify this statement Ream said, "If an employer has two men working full time during the year and hires another five to six men during harvest time, he must keep the records."

Asked to explain a recordable injury, Ream replied, "If an employee is taken to the doctor for any minor injury and the injury needs to be sutured by the doctor, that is a recordable injury." First aid treatment cannot be termed a recordable

injury.

If a workman injures himself and is taken to a hospital for examination and X-rays and an examination by a doctor reveals nothing, the injury is not a recordable injury.

The audience asked Ream to define the difference between an employee and an employer, as many farmers hire certain men to perform duties during the year. Ream explained, "If you hire a man with a tractor to plow a field, he is your employee. On the other hand, if you hire a group of men to bale hay, the man in charge is the employer. If something happens and he does not have insurance, you will be responsible, so please take the time to check and to see that they have insurance, in other words, read the fine print, and if there is any doubt, contact the Workmen's Compensation Board."

"There were seven fatalities in Oregon last year," said Ream, "and most of the accidents were caused by carelessness. 92 out of every 100 accidents are caused by man, who is his own worst enemy, yet the responsibility of the accident falls on the employer."

"The idea is not to investigate after an accident has happened, but to try and prevent accidents from happening," remarked Ream.

The second portion of the meeting dealt with first aid and some regulations that become effective April 1.

As of April 1, if an employer has two or more employees at any one time he must have a person trained in first aid on the job. The person must show that he has completed first aid training through the Red Cross or equivalent courses in the past three years.

The employer must provide immediate and emergency care for injured or ill workers.

First aid kit supplies must be readily available to employees, Ream said. Supplies may be purchased from a drug store and the employer may make his own kit as long as the bandages are clean and are kept in a container that will

prevent deterioration and protect them from contamination.

The employees must be informed what to do and whom to call in the case of an emergency. This does not mean that a trained person must be always at the side of other employees; however, they should be checked on periodically.

Iodine and ointments can no longer be kept in first aid kits, and the bandages need only be clean, not sterile, he pointed out.

A lie-down space must be provided so that injured or ill employees can lie down until further treatment is determined.

"Some employers are using a spare bedroom in their homes as a designated lie-down area, others a designated place in their work shop."

Employers must develop an Emergency Medical Plan (EMP), which will insure that employees suffering major illness or injuries on the job will receive medical care as soon as possible. The minimum EMP must include the following information and must be posted at the place of employment: names and telephone numbers of ambulance service and hospital. In addition, a definite plan of action to be followed must be used. The plan of action must include arrangements for communication and transportation with provisions to contact a doctor, ambulance and hospital.

All employees must know of the first aid requirements and the employer's EMP.

"We do not expect you to keep a blanket out by a combine, and a lie-down area can be a piece of plywood in your shop, but it should be some place that is protected from the elements of the weather."

A question was raised as to the rendering of first aid and the possibility of being sued if the person should die. According to the Red Cross, Ream said, "there is no case on record where anyone has ever been sued for rendering first aid to an injured person."