

Solutions near

City still faced with water and sewer problems

The Heppner common council spent two hours discussing water and sewer problems facing the city at its regular meeting Monday night.

Dan Russell, plumbing inspector for the State of Oregon Department of Commerce, told the council, "I have made further investigations and have sent the City of Heppner a list of violations that exist in Evergreen Terrace subdivision." Letters have also been sent to the contractors.

"The laterals appear to be suspicious as far as the bedding is concerned and I am going to put a test on every line in the subdivision to make sure there are no leaks," continued Russell.

"I have no way of knowing what the contractors did nor do I know where the water and sewer lines are located in the subdivision. I was not contacted for any inspections," said Russell.

An objection came from Elva Duvall, superintendent for R.C. Chambers, who told

the council, "Inspections on the water and sewer were asked for by the contractor and the trenches were left open for at least 30 days prior to the trenches being backfilled. We were not certain if an inspection had been requested of the State.

In a letter to the common council, Steve Anderson, city engineer, requests that all of the four-inch pipe in Rock St., be removed and replaced properly. In his letter Anderson states, "please remove all of the four-inch pipe, replace the bedding material, re-lay all the pipe that is unbroken. Replace all broken or repaired pipe and cover the pipe with select backfill as shown on the plans."

"We trust that this time the work will be done properly," said Mayor Sweeney.

In other related water problems, Dr. Jim Norene, D.V.M., complained to the council that his home had suffered water damage recently when the pressure

valves on his two water heaters blew off. It caused some damage to both the upstairs and the basement of his home. Norene also stated that the city crew and contractor were there to offer any assistance and offered to have the rugs removed to prevent mildew. He stated that he had refused the offer as he and his wife had vacuumed the water from the rugs.

Recently the basement of the Gilliam-Bisbee building was flooded with over-flow water from the reservoir when the drain was found to be plugged with rocks, baseball bats and beer bottles. Normally the over flow goes into a storm drain but with the drain plugged the water continued down the street into the building. No serious damage was reported. The city instructed Ralph Marlatt to place a grate over the drain in an effort to keep the pipe open.

A letter from Jim Van Domlen, DEQ, was read to the council. He stated he had never given verbal permission for the installation of sewer lines in the Lott-Rasmussen addition. His letter states, "The sewer line must be engineered and installed according to specifications." The city did not object to the verbal permission, and on this basis they granted a building permit and a water connection to Warren Plocharsky who has started construction on his home. Lott was told, as was the city, "If this is constructed properly everyone wins. The trench is dug, the pipe is laying alongside of it and now the work must come to a stop until plans are approved," said Mayor Sweeney.

The plans must be completed by a registered engineer and submitted to the DEQ for their approval.

In other business to come before the council:

—Norman Paulius asked the council about a parking problem that he would like corrected. A "No Parking" sign is hanging on the fence of his property and one of his employees received a ticket for parking near the fence. Mayor Sweeney commented, "The situation will be investigated and if the sign is posted on the fence it should be removed."

—Bill Cox, owner of the Morrow County Creamery, asked the council, "Can people who own property in Heppner and reside elsewhere be made to have their property cleaned up before it creates a fire hazard?"

Cox contends, that during the bicentennial the community should have a cleanup campaign. Certain property in the area is burned off by the fire department when the property is declared a fire hazard. However, the Health Department will not allow any burning near the creamery.

"It should be the property owners responsibility," said Mayor Sweeney, "and perhaps the city attorney can ask

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OUTDOOR SCHOOL STUDENTS learn about soil composition and chemical makeup during their classes. Different soil layers were studied, temperature taken and acidity tested.

Spring fever cure

Students vacate rooms for outdoors classes

Last week 33 Heppner 6th graders swapped the four walls of the traditional classroom for a week in the mountains surrounding Tupper Guard Station.

In its third year, outdoor school provided the students an opportunity to learn together, share responsibility and experience group living. It was possible through cooperative efforts of students, school staff, parents and community. Funding is provided by a minimal student tuition, school budget allocation and fund raising activities.

Unlike a campout, outdoor school offers students daily instruction in nature studies, utilizing the natural setting as an effective teaching aid.

Conservation related studies covered by local resource people this year included weather prediction by Del King, teacher John Breidenbach of the U.S. Forest Service showed students how to read a map and determine position with a compass. Geology and soil study by Joyce Hesla, Irrigon teacher, had students taking soil samples and tests.

During a nature hike, Dennis Martin, U.S. Forest Service, identified vegetation and showed how to determine a tree's age. Jack Meland of the Oregon State Wildlife Commission conducted animal studies in a pine tree setting and Erval Clare, Wildlife Commission, gave water studies at the edge of Bull Prairie Reservoir.

Bob Jepsen, local rancher, demonstrated survival techniques in the event of becoming lost, such as lighting fires without matches, building shelter and snoring food.

Daily recreation activities, archery, fly casting, riflery, hiking, arts and crafts, occupied "after-school" hours. In the evenings, campers shared songs, skits and sunsets around campfire.

Thursday was an all day survival session at Bull Prairie as students received survival instruction, fished and cooked their own dinner.

Students took an active role in their care and feeding by setting tables, serving meals, cleaning the dining room and maintaining their cabins. Each shared responsibility and duties of host, hostess and

color guard at flag ceremonies.

Outdoor school staff included Don Cole, Heppner Elementary Principal; Inez Erwin and Ken Lemley, 6th grade teachers; and 12 high school counselors. Meals were prepared by Gladys VanWinkle, elementary school cook, with the assistance of mother volunteers.

Equalization meeting date is now May 19

The proposed meeting of the Board of Equalization of the County of Morrow, scheduled for May 12 at the Morrow County Courthouse, has been postponed until Monday, May 19, 10 a.m.

This meeting is to publicly examine the assessment rolls of the county for 1975 and to correct errors in valuation, description, or qualities of land lots or other property assessed by the assessor.

BMCC budget voted down

The budget for the Blue Mountain Community College was defeated by 401 votes Tuesday. The "yes" votes totaled 3,106, while the "no" votes totaled 3,599.

Voters in Morrow County supported the budget, with a vote of 219 for and 186 against.

By areas Morrow County voted as follows: "yes" votes are given first: Heppner 76-66, Boardman 62-30, Lone 35-46, Irrigon 23-10 and Lexington 21-34.

Ron Daniels told the Gazette-Times Wednesday, "I think the Blue Mountain Community College budget was caught in an inflationary cycle. The budget committee will resubmit later this week or the early part of next week. Areas to cut will be studied in an effort to re-submit the budget to the voters. The college cannot operate without a budget."

CORRECTION

Contrary to a statement in last week's Gazette, Portland General Electric has filed for application to build a coal fired thermal plant. The request will be heard at the May 12 meeting of the Morrow County Planning Commission.

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Which way to go

Alternatives to school needs listed by Doherty

Matt Doherty, Morrow County Superintendent of Schools, spoke on recent findings of the University of Oregon Bureau of Education on the long range planning program for the county schools at the Monday Chamber of Commerce meeting.

"At present the school enrollment is on the projected level for 1978," said Doherty, "and this is due primarily to the natural growth of the community."

Doherty then asked members to fill out a work sheet listing some of the proposals submitted to the board of directors. Although cost estimates are shown, these figures should not be construed as the exact amount required for either the repair work or new construction work, he said.

The questions could be answered by multiple choice, immediate need; future need; future need if the population grows; and not needed.

For the Heppner area the following questions were asked: shall we

- Improve the playground facilities at the elementary school by developing all adjacent district owned property and, or improve existing primary playground, as the present playground is substandard by state standards, at a cost of \$6,000?
- Improve the old building to keep it in service; present building needs new windows as well as additional electrical and mechanical work, \$46,000?
- Construct a new shop at the high school; present shop program is carried on by busing all agriculture students to the elementary school in order to use old shop, which is inadequate? Wood shop is in the small room under the high school. No adequate classroom for shop related classroom work, \$128,000?
- Remodel existing shop for either district maintenance including buses, or for junior high shop? Much of the district maintenance is now farmed out whereas, junior high does not have a shop for use at present because of the competition with the high school, \$4,000.
- Enlarge high school library by expanding into adjoining room? The present library is too small to adequately handle this size school with new emphasis on library media in education, \$4,000.
- Add two new classrooms to the high school? This will be required if the library is enlarged, \$80,000.
- Keep the junior high at the present location in the old building? Provide for career education through the remodeled shop and added staff. Reduce enrollment pressure by the addition of six new rooms for elementary students at the site of the elementary building, \$180,000.
- Or, move the junior high to the senior high building in order to take advantage of the proposed shops expanded library and the specialized training of some high school staff members? This would require the addition of six classrooms and an attendance office, \$190,000.

Increased pressure for additions of girls sports programs plus the generally poor condition of the old junior high school gym throws a heavy burden on the existing high school, Doherty said. It would appear that despite early morning and late evening scheduling that present facilities cannot physically accommodate the number of students now enrolled in sports programs in Heppner, he pointed out.

Two proposals for correcting this situation are listed:

- Completely remodel the old gym at the present junior high school eliminating the auditorium, increasing the floor space and rebuilding all dressing rooms at a cost of \$180,000.
- Or build a new gym at whatever the future site of the Heppner junior high will be for \$250,000.

Additional options:

With a new emphasis being placed on the comprehensive high school (board curriculum) some schools are adding as many as 100 electives of option courses which are available to students in order to satisfy credits.

Courses are available in the areas of fine arts, careers and vocations as well as extensions of regular academic requirements. Morrow County high schools frequently find themselves taxed to offer even limited elective courses because of the restrictions of staff and space. "The committee would like your opinion on the following

alternative ideas that have been suggested as solutions to at least some of these limitations," Doherty said.

- Build a centralized shop area at Lexington for use by the lone and Heppner students. This would eliminate the need for proposed shops at Lone (\$90,000) and Heppner (\$128,000). Cost \$200,000.
- Develop mobile shops for specialized use at all high schools, small engine repair, etc. Would add electives but would not eliminate the need for shops at lone and Heppner, \$6,000 each.
- Share staff members between schools—would add elective course offerings at lone, Riverside and Heppner.
- Use mobile or modular buildings for added classroom work space for temporary solutions at Irrigon and Riverside, \$14,000 each.
- Build a comprehensive high school at Lexington for grades 10-12 for use by lone and Heppner. Use present buildings for junior high schools. This proposal would eliminate the need for building a shop at lone (\$90,000); the need for classrooms at Heppner (\$180,000); the need for a new gym at Heppner (\$250,000). Cost: \$2,000,000.
- Consolidate lone and Heppner High Schools by busing to Heppner (would still require a building program at Heppner). Would eliminate shop at lone (\$90,000); and would increase transportation costs.
- Build a county-wide four-year high school north of Lexington, between Grieb and Rauch ranches. This would eliminate most of the previous building program (\$1,398,000). This would increase transportation costs approximately 2 1/2 times. Cost \$3,000,000.

The following suggestions were made by Doherty for the lone High School.

- lone does not have shop facilities large enough to provide a diversified program such as wood shop, automotive, agriculture, etc. Cost to construct shop facilities, \$80,380.

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BOB JEPSEN demonstrates survival techniques during the outdoor school. Here he shows how to build a shelter in the event of becoming lost.



MATT DOHERTY