

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Heppner, Oregon

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Weather
 by the City of Heppner

	High	Low	Precip	Snow
Tues., March	19	63	32	T
Wed., March	20	62	32	30
Thurs., March	21	50	28	05
Fri., March	22	53	36	03
Sat., March	23	61	33	33
Sun., March	24	50	28	02
Mon., March	25	48	26	0

Solid Waste Advisory Committee finishes task

Morrow County may be out of the landfill business and the city of Heppner in, if the County Court and the Heppner City Council accept the recommendation of the ad hoc Solid Waste Committee.

At the committee's second meeting Thursday, March 21, they passed a motion that the county court lease to the city of Heppner the D-4 tractor used at the landfill for the rental fee of \$1 per year and that the county

provide free trenching service with its D-9 tractor and that the county place in an escrow account for future use by the city of Heppner the \$9,000 budgeted for closing the landfill site during the current fiscal

year. Since the county's 10-year lease at the Turner Sanitary Landfill expires this month and Dail Turner, owner of the land has expressed a desire to the county not to renew the lease, a six-month extension was negotiated for \$2,000, but as of September, the county would be without a landfill service.

The committee began with the following four options: 1) creation of a new landfill site to be operated privately, 2) operation of the Turner landfill by a private enterprise, 3) community based collection and drop box system, and 4) a central drop box system.

Next, they heard the findings of the staff: 1) Morrow County budget committee did not budget funds to continue operation of the Turner Landfill or any other disposal system. 2) Morrow County did budget adequate funds to close the Turner Landfill. 3) Morrow County owns a site near Lexington that is set up to receive tires, appliances, car bodies, etc. and 4) There are no currently permitted landfill sites other than the Turner Landfill.

Paul Jones chairman of the committee explained Turner's terms for extension of the current lease which expires September 15:

- \$6,000 per year rent.
- Tenant pay the property taxes.
- Road to landfill is oiled.
- No burning allowed.
- Wood brush shredder used.
- Litter control, Rye control.
- Regular water testing in springs and wells.
- Speed control on access road.
- Tight restrictions per DEQ and Landlord.

Good, valid operational plan approved by DEQ and Landlord.

Having met with their respective councils, the mayors reported the following recommendations to the Committee:

Heppner mayor Cara Costa said that the city "strongly urges and recommends that the county keep the present landfill open and to help them do so, the city was allocating \$3,032 from its federal revenue sharing funds to help the county keep it open.

Lexington mayor John Ripple reported that Lexington opposes closure of the Turner Landfill and feels that the county should operate a landfill.

Ione mayor Wayne Hams reported that Ione is no longer directly involved with the landfill because 70 percent of the residents use Hermiston Sanitary Disposal Service, however, Ione feels there should be a place for the 30 percent who haul their own garbage and supports keeping the landfill open.

Irrigon mayor Don Eppenbach reported that the Irrigon council felt that the location of the Turner landfill didn't benefit the north end of the county. That the county needed to locate a landfill closer to the north end if they were asking for county-wide tax support. The council, he said, felt that they were well served by present private contractor, but they could see a future need for a centrally located landfill.

Boardman mayor Gale Grill reported that the Boardman council expressed no opinion on the Turner Landfill but didn't want to be part of a county-wide subsidy for a landfill that only served part of the county.

Jones also stated that the Port of Morrow would be needing a disposal site for 10,000 T. of solid waste per year.

Jones then asked if the county would consider negotiating an extension on the lease at the Turner site.

The county is not negotiating with Turner because the current rent on the property is \$900 per year with the current six-month extension on the lease costing \$2,000. Budget com-

mittee member Terry Thompson explained that Turner wants the rent increased because after locking him into a 10-year contract for use of the landfill at a set rent of \$900, the county re-zoned the land which resulted in increased taxes at the landfill site.

Thompson emphasized that the county is losing approximately \$10,000 per year now for operation of the landfill, and they would be losing \$20,000 per year with the increased rent. He theorized that the city of Heppner could, however, operate the landfill on a break-even basis by increasing its city tax support and by taking advantage of the \$1 per year rental for equipment which normally rents for \$10,000.

The county wants out of the landfill business Thompson told the committee. "It's not a matter of cost to the county per 1,000 pounds of disposal, but that county-wide tax dollars are used to support a landfill which serves only the south end of the county which is not right."

In response, former Heppner mayor and owner of Heppner Garbage Disposal Service, Cliff Green, observed that the current county administration seems to have a policy of matching one dollar spent in the north end of the county with one dollar spent in the south end of the county. There are two parts of the county, different parts—not good and bad, just different. Therefore, he said, "The county has an obligation to meet the needs of both ends of the county recognizing that they are different and have different needs."

Thompson agreed that the county had an obligation to its citizens and said that the county was willing to lease a county-owned tractor for \$1 per year and to turn the Lexington Landfill site for white goods over to a private operator who would make landfill self-supporting. He concluded with the advice that Heppner would probably find it just as cheap to have Hermiston Sanitary Disposal Service haul their garbage as to operate a landfill.

Both Green and Merle Jewett, owner of Hermiston Sanitary Disposal Service, reported that they had been asked by the county to look at the feasibility of operating the landfill. Each had come to the conclusion that liability and lack of volume would prevent a private owner from making the landfill pay for itself. Jewett added that he would like to see a landfill remain in South Morrow County.

Bob Brown, representative from the Portland office of the Department of Environmental Quality reported that the 1981 legislature had said it would provide no more grants for establishing landfills. Preliminary costs for determining the acceptability of a site range from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Gil Hargreaves of the Pendleton DEQ office cautioned that although with minor adjustments, the Turner Landfill site would probably meet renewal requirements for the DEQ permit when it expires this fall, there is no way to guarantee the life of the site. Based on the amount of room at the site, when it begins to fill up, we are hesitant to guarantee 10 years. Also, says Brown, there is no guarantee that the regulations would be the same 10 years from now.

Heppner Councilman Marvin Lane reported to the committee that although he had tried, Turner refused to negotiate with the city of Heppner because he was dealing with the county.

"To be reasonable," summarized Green, "We need to develop a solid waste disposal district (an idea which was discarded with the solid waste study of 1974). But the city of Heppner will have to run it to get it started."

Courthouse officially listed

The Morrow County Courthouse has been officially entered into the National Register of Historic Places announced a recent news release from the Parks and Recreation Division of the Oregon Dept. of Transportation.

The property was nominated to the National Register at the recommendation of the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation. Word of the recent action taken in Washington, D.C., was received by State Historic Preservation Officer David G. Talbot.

The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, under authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Election Board awaits voters



Lexington election board members had seen 17 people come in to vote by 9 a.m. Tuesday. While waiting for the next voter to arrive, board members posed for their pictures. Chairman Carol Baker then explained that

Louis Allyn fills a new position on the board. This is the first election Baker has worked on where a map reader was needed to determine voter eligibility in fire protection and cemetery maintenance districts.

March 26, 1985 Morrow County Election Results

		Boardman		Irrigon		Ione		Lexington		Heppner-Hardman		Totals	
Advisory Committee	Candidates	Boardman		Irrigon		Ione		Lexington		Heppner-Hardman		Totals	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Advisory Committee	Dana L. Heideman Ione-Lexington Position No. 3		108										
	Keith Rea WON Ione-Lexington Position No. 3		281										
Advisory Committee	Marcia Kemp WON Heppner-Lexington Position No. 6		587										
	Michael B. Vejraska Heppner-Lexington Position No. 6		85										
Morrow Co. Operating Levy		225	134	176	67	241	843						
School Budget		228	248	79	85	330	970						
Morrow Co. Operating Levy		269	170	176	69	272	956						
School Budget		188	214	80	83	299	864						
School Board	John T. Jensen	204	86	7	9	29	335						
	Keith I. Nelson	113	94	202	34	122	565						
	Lee Padberg	44	65	37	87	279	512						
	Douglas Rathbun	41	65	5	21	128	260						
Port of Morrow Commissioners	Louis A. Carlson WON	217	122	207	104	414	1064						
	Daniel Creamer	134	182	28	18	65	427						
	Matt Doherty WON	220	239	170	88	401	1118						
	Paul W. Jones	68	92	93	60	277	590						
	William P. Sharkey WON	303	151	52	24	112	642						
	Paul H. Taylor	86	80	115	71	223	575						