

County refuses to reduce right-of-way

Morrow County Court last Wednesday denied a request by Columbia Basin Electric to reduce its right-of-way along the road running from Cutsforth Corner to Baseline Rd.

Fred Toombs, manager of the co-op, appeared before the court to request that the county reduce its easement from 60' to 40'. The co-op is obtaining easements to rebuild the power line which supplies Lone, Lexington and Heppner, he said. Most of the property owners along the proposed route have been very cooperative, but since Juniper Canyon Road is not as wide as the easement, staking the line 18' outside the property owner's line will place it 22' into the adjacent field, he said.

"We've already told the property owner that we have no intention of lowering the right of way to 40', Judge Don McElligott told Toombs. "The right-of-ways are too hard to get for us to give them up."

"I'm not sure we could reduce the right-of-way even if we wanted to," Commissioner Jerry Peck agreed. "State law says we must establish a right-of-way at a certain width."

"We have a 60' right of way with the title," Commissioner Irv Rauch added. "We're not ready to narrow it, but we understand the owner has been farming our land and it's tough to give that up," he said.

The county will check to see if the roller skating program at the fairgrounds can be continued in cooperation with the fair board under the supervision of juvenile services, the court told Merlyn Robinson of the Morrow County Fair Board. "The Fair Board is not able to stand the increased insurance costs for the program," she said. "We are at a place where we must require the private party operating the skating to carry his own insurance and they have indicated to us that they would have to quit the program because the insurance is too expensive. We would really hate to lose the activity for the kids," she said.

In other business, the court: -heard that forms are being built for the foundation of the addition at the North Morrow Annex. Architect Bob Smith discussed the project. -approved reimbursing Pat Brin-

die for expenses for a trip she made to the Eastern Oregon Health System Committee as a county representative.

-heard from Commissioner Peck that since a change in management has occurred in Umatilla County, they may be interested in talking about a jail contract again.

-heard a report from Commissioner Rauch on the Oregon Counties Land Use Coalition.

-approved a request from the county accountant to alter the book-keeping system by putting the road department in the general ledger. The county's auditor advised the change. Cost of computer program change is not to exceed the estimated \$962.50.

-approved easements across county property for the Columbia Basin power line.

-approved claims.

-authorized Road Supervisor Don Ball to put "Children at Play" and "Slow, Danger" signs on Countyline Road, which had been requested because the road is heavily traveled by the trucks while kids are playing.

-heard that the taxes have no been paid on a portion of a lot in Hardman. The Museum owns part of the lot and the taxes are paid on that portion. The court decided not to pay the past due property taxes for the unknown owner.

-advised the road supervisor that he should withhold payment from subcontractors who fail to provide proof that they are covered by workmen's compensation or that they are exempt from the requirement.

-discussed a request to bury a telephone line along Laurel Lane in Boardman.

-approved a 90 day 96,000 lb. load permit for Bombing Range Road.

School growth

building at Lone, and four classrooms and a cafeteria/multipurpose room to Heppner elementary school. "We don't know what this end (of the county) will look like in five years," he said.

Board member Bob Mahoney said he was concerned that the two older buildings at Lone and Heppner would have problems. "There will be a time when something has to be done to those buildings," he said.

Cost of hiring the architect will be included in next year's budget. The board and superintendent presented some additional budget needs for the next school year to the Budget Committee. "This year's experience teaches us that we need to review carefully, with the best advice available, our budget priorities," the superintendent said. "It would be very expensive to consider everything on our list. We need to be very judicious. You (the budget committee) need to give us some direction."

Board Chairman Joe Stevens asked the committee to check for obvious discrepancies in district staffing. "Does one school have six aides and another school that is two-thirds the size, have seven? If so, this may be an excess," he said. "We're always open to the criticism that too many people work here. Is it possible to justify everyone who works (for the district)?"

Mary Lou Carlson, another board member advised the committee that it is "essential to make the best use of the district's dollar. We need the most efficient use of our money and to justify a need for everything the district has," she said.

McCaslin told the board that he didn't believe that the successive budget defeats were a sign of voters' lack of confidence in them. "I see no reason for a majority of board members to resign," he said, because budgets are failing, not just in our district, but all over the state. "Should a majority of the board resign at one time, the replacement procedure is for the county court to appoint the members with all deliberate speed so that the district does have a governing body and is able to transact business legally." Board member Jerry McElligott had asked the superintendent to report on possible effects of a mass resignation of the board.

"The Department of Education in Salem informs me," McCaslin said, "that it is, in fact, legal to separate the money required to balance the budget into program

components and vote each separately. For example, boards have decided to vote their basic program on one ballot, their transportation program on another, their athletics or extracurricular activities on another, and certainly kindergartens have been kvoted on separate ballots in several districts around the state.

"Citing several examples, the budget analyst that I spoke to informed me that defeat of all except the basic levy is virtually assured in this type of separation, so that boards are only separating programs for levy purposes out of some exasperation and perhaps desperation at this point in time," he said. Budget Committee member Lee Padberg had asked the superintendent to comment on the possibility of splitting

the levy for the 1987-88 school year so that people could vote by programs.

"If, after three or four defeats of the budget, we use the split-levy approach, we will get the basic education through," board member Bill Doherty observed.

The district's auditor, Brent Fife, presented the district's 59-page audit report and his recommendations for future management. The report indicates that the "district's records are in good shape," he said.

In other business, the board: -heard that 116 people rode the bus from downtown Heppner to the fairgrounds during the four-day, 32-hour Morrow County Fair and Rodeo.

-confirmed a refusal of an offer from Kenn Evans to give the district "quiet title and a quit claim to property" at A.C. Houghton elementary school in exchange for \$5000. The district says it is not clear that Evans owns the land.

-went on record opposing ballot measures No. 9 (1.5% Property Tax Limitation), and No. 5 (Marijuana Initiative).

-approved hiring Bart Sarzinski for the position of speech-language therapist for the north end schools. He will obtain an emergency teaching certificate because he lacks some of the course work Oregon requires for a regular certificate in the area, and because there is a recognized shortage of qualified applicants.

-voted to require a special vocational certificate in addition to an appropriate teaching certificate for the person in charge of the diversified occupations program at Heppner High School.

-accepted Budget Committee member Lee Padberg's resignation.

-approved maternity leave for Lea Calvert, second grade teacher at Heppner elementary school, and for Sharon Morris, second grade teacher at Lone elementary.



Potato Pickers

The Sunday school class and teachers of All Saints Episcopal Church in Heppner show off the 400 pounds of potatoes they gleaned from a field for donation to the Neighborhood Center.

The class spent Sunday at the Anderson farm near Lone gathering the potatoes, which had been left

over after the machines had harvested the field the previous day.

Senior Citizens plan for Center

The Heppner Senior Citizens Building Center Board last Wednesday assured the Morrow County Court that they will locate a senior center on the ground floor of the housing project planned for the Heppner Hotel if the City of Heppner is able to proceed with the project.

The seniors have been offered a lease for 4,900 sq. ft. on the east end of the hotel's ground floor, Jane Rawlins, president of the board said. In exchange, the senior board will contribute \$60,000 for the building's construction, and a pledge of their "best effort" to raise an additional \$40,000 before the project's completion, she said.

"Including \$1300 raised at last weekend's auction, we have \$59,000 in the building fund right now," she said. The senior citizens will need to raise an estimated \$35,000 in addition, to building costs, for furnishings at the center.

The seniors already have a separate fund of \$2,300 for a convection oven, and have a freezer and two refrigerators which are in use at the current mealsite. They will need to buy tables, chairs, a range, a dishwasher, and a range hood and fan to start out. We will have space for a cooling room and a walk-in freezer, but will add that later, Rawlins said.

The center will include a main dining and assembly room which can be used for dances or parties as well as for serving meals, she said. A kitchen, recreation room, office for Area Agency on Aging Representative Phyllis Hunter, a conference room, and restrooms will complete the center, she said.

The seniors' plans to put the center on the ground floor of the Heppner Hotel building depend on the City of Heppner's going through with the project to renovate the Heppner Hotel building creating 19 self-contained apartments for senior citizens. Nothing is signed yet, City Attorney Bill Kuhn said, but the seniors have said they want in if the project goes.


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Although the architect's cost estimates are a lot higher than we had hoped, by the end of the week we should be able to make some decisions, Kuhn said. Estimating what the city will be able to pay back, the loan needs to be less than \$400,000, he said. The architect's estimates are about \$40,000 more than that. Although the city has not yet made a formal loan application to the Housing Division, representatives have met several times and have worked through preliminary stages.

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