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City landfill needs plan to meet DEQ requirements

By Avon Melby

Changes will have to be made at the city landfill. City Attorney Bill Kuhn told the city council the Department of Environmental Quality. Is "getting adamant" on the need to do something about engineering the operation.

The site on the hill above the golf course was opened by the county as a landfill. The county asked the city, which was having trouble with DEQ about its dump, to close the dump and send refuse from the town to the landfill so it would pay the county to operate it. Then the county operated it as an open trench-type, with periodic fill in the trenches. It never was, Kuhn said, operated as a regular fill, compacting one layer on top of another, as called for when the county started it. The county wanted out a few years ago and the city took it over, using the same method of filling.

DEQ notified the city recently that it had to be engineered and plans made for an acceptable fill.

Engineers Steve Anderson, formerly employed by the city, and Tension, a Portland firm, had been contacted by Kuhn about costs. Apparently about \$2,000 would be needed to make a short-term plan. But it would cost about \$10,000 for a long term plan. Kuhn said there was no assurance the plans made up would be approved by DEQ.

Mayor Cara Costa appointed Councilmen Wilbur Jackson and Rick Curtis to work with Kuhn in deciding what would be the best method of meeting DEQ's requirements and to report next month.

The state has set aside a sum of \$500,000 to meet street and bridge requirements not covered in the State Highway Division, in small cities, Mayor Costa told the council. She asked permission to request an allotment of \$184,000 out of that fund, for work on a bridge south of Court street where a narrow, old bridge needs replacement and the street needs widening. Approval by the council was unanimous.

Deed to the former Church of God building was presented the mayor by Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine. The building was recently purchased by the firemen out of their own personal money; no taxpayers funds were used. Burkenbine said the volunteer

firemen were putting on a new roof, repairing the plumbing and heating system, all at no cost to the city. He added the firemen from several neighboring towns who attended the fire school held here Sunday were very envious of the large new quarters the Heppner Fire Department will now enjoy.

Mayor Costa announced the city police will move from city hall to the building next door, which formerly was a city library but has been the meeting room for the fire department for several years. The change will give both city hall and police, as well as the firemen more spacious quarters.

Request to keep seven chickens at his home was made by Robert Ross, a new resident. He said neighbors had said they had no objections. A permit was granted, but he was advised complaints would mean it would be revoked.

A new program of assisting cities in setting goals is starting, Mayor Costa said, and announced she would like to set it up for Heppner. An outside expert would meet with city officials, employees, the planning commission, and the budget committee. She said if it were done

Heppner Council hears Water hookup still problem on Cemetery hill

By Avon Melby

Problems in obtaining water hookup at his trailer home above the cemetery outside the city limits brought Key Key to Monday's council meeting.

After a more than 12 month attempt to meet requirements of the city to obtain the water he said he thought it was settled last month when councilmen decided to change their policy, and allow hookups.

But when he got ready for the service he found new requirements had been added to the contract he was to sign with the city.

He wanted to know why, and what he could do. He said it would now cost him "fifty thousand dollars" to put in streets with curbing and sidewalks, and he could not do that.

City Attorney Bill Kuhn said two requirements had been added to the regular water contract, for the original Bobbie Angell property. He said with the large amount of land



Fire chief Burkenbine presents deed to Mayor Cara Costa.

soon it would be at no cost to the city, but later was going to cost money and expenses for those giving the goal setting sessions. Council members agreed it might be a good program for the city and she is to try to get it scheduled this month.

Request to set up a concession on the vacant lot on Main Street between the Shoe Box and the post office has been made by Noel Harshman, City Manager Marshall Lovgren said. The lot is privately owned, and the city has no permits

for such an operation. He will be told to work it out with the property owner. The request was only for the three-day celebration of St. Patrick's Day on March 13, 14 and 15.

A delegation of city officials from Heppner's sister city Estacada will join local city officials in a group to march in the Saturday parade in the celebration, Mayor Costa said. She asked councilmen who were not busy at other things that day to join the official delegation.

use of Heppner's city urban growth boundary.

The council said it felt he should meet the requirement set by the city, but wanted to know why they were so strict. Consensus was a land owners should be allowed to use his land, not hold it for high priced home building. Stating there is nothing here to bring in people who would want to build expensive homes, Councilman Bob Ployhar said he felt the city should encourage those people who want to live here to do so.

Noting "You still have our permission for water," Mayor Costa told Key to return to the city planners next week and ask for a variance to the contract requirement so the hookup could be made.

At the time permission was granted for Key to place his trailer on the land he went in by meeting county requirements, but not city ones. The county and the city have a joint management agreement on

Lifeguard helicopter back in service

The Lifeguard helicopter ambulance was in Heppner Thursday for inspection by local medical personnel. Back in service a week ago Saturday, the air ambulance responds to emergency calls within a 100 mile radius of Pendleton. To contact the ambulance directly, call 1-800-247-7740, for emergency transport to a hospital.

Equipped similarly to the helicopter which crashed north of I-84 near Pendleton last December, the air ambulance has a few added safety features including added lights, a landing light so the tail rotor is visible at night, and a radar altimeter which gives the pilot an audible signal when the terrain is too close to the helicopter.

The crash snapped some realism in all of us, Craig Manley, executive director of Lifeguard said. The crew is concerned with helping patients and are suggesting safeguards to make sure that everyone is very safe.

The response to the service's rural registration program has been overwhelming, Manley continued. People



Five-year-old Kristi Worden of Heppner tried on a headset in the new Lifeguard air ambulance with the help of crewmember Susan Fitzpatrick, R.N.

ple in outlying areas may register their location noting possible clearings where the helicopter could land. They can also register the name of their family doctor and necessary medications for heart patients or others who might need emergency care. "It makes our response faster. We fly over each designated landing site during the daytime so that if we should be called out at night, we know what is there," Manley said. "We will only land at pre-arranged sites at night."

Because fog is difficult to predict in this area and sometimes can appear suddenly, we will avoid taking flights where the possibility of sudden fog might exist, he said. All pilots are instrument trained and will keep their skills current, but what people don't seem to understand is that the helicopter is only licensed for flight where the pilot has visible ground references, so we will try to avoid flights where we might fly into fog, and need to use an instrument approach, Manley concluded.

10 acres at airport will be bid in CRP

The Morrow County Court last Wednesday approved bidding land at the Lexington airport into the Conservation Reserve Program. The 10-acres is currently seeded to grass. The court recommended a bid price of \$45 per acre.

The court also approved recommending a 10% increase in the amount of privately owned farmland which may be bid into the CRP. Currently 25% of qualifying erodible cropland may be bid into the conservation program. Skip Mathews of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service told the Court that the Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service recommended a 10% increase, and that about half the area farmers favored it.

In other business during the past two weeks, the county court:

-heard from Ken Turner and his attorney Dennis Doherty, Bill Reynolds Engineers, and Fritz and Janice Cutsforth and their attorney John Kottkamp regarding a pipeline Turner proposes to build near a county road. The court heard Cutsforth's reasons for objecting to the pipeline. No decision was made regarding an easement on county right-of-way.

-heard a request from Don Eppenbach for funds in the 1988 fiscal year for a fast response vehicle located in Irrigon.

-agreed to look at the possibility of taking \$3,000 from revenue sharing for purchase of an additional 30

feet of property for the Irrigon Fire District.

-accepted the resignations of the entire team of Health Transition Board members.

-learned that the North Morrow Medical Clinic cash flow is running very low. The Court instructed that a letter be written to the North Morrow Medical Clinic Board to warn them of the low cash balance in their fund that is putting the operation in jeopardy.

-approved depositing the county's portion of funds for restoration of the Cecil bridge with the State Treasurer.

-heard that Dr. Koznek agreed to assume the position of Medical Health Officer effective July 1.

-accepted deeds for right-of-way property along Wilson Road from Jackson and Shirley Sheadel and from Robert Hale.

-discussed a contract for future crushed rock at the county's rock crusher with Tom Mabbott and David Mabbott.

-received a letter from City of Heppner regarding the city's landfill.

-set the salary at \$36,000 for the Public Works Director position.

-requested that the Oregon Dept. of Transportation place three county bridges on a state bridge replacement program: Valby Road bridge at Eight mile crossing, Spring Hollow bridge on Rhea Creek, and Slaughter House bridge on Willow Creek.

Hospital board nominates Pearson

By Avon Melby

At a meeting last week Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board nominated Frank Pearson to the county court to serve on the county health board now being organized by the court.

Pearson, who has served six years on the hospital board, said his employer, Kinzua Corp., has an interest in promoting health care on an equitable basis in both the north and south ends of the county. Kinzua has a mill complex here and a loading dock at Boardman, with intentions of expanding the operation at Boardman.

County Commissioner Irvin Rauch attended the hospital meeting and said the court wanted a recommendation for appointment from the hospital, but that the court wanted to get away from "political" appointments. He said the court did not intend to have representatives of each health service on the board, but of the general public.

People familiar with health service should be on the new board, the hospital board agreed. "If there are not some members of the health service groups on that board, it will never work," stated Pioneer Board member Jack Strege.

Rauch said the court expected to appoint an eight-member board early in March to administer health services and determine requirements of the local hospital and ambulance service, Tri-County Health, Boardman Clinic, and ambulances in other communities, as necessary.

The action is a result of a petition from people in Boardman and Irrigon to allow creation of a health

district in the north end of the county so they would receive more health care for their tax money. They said they were paying for the hospital here and not benefiting from it. That drew another petition from the south Morrow people asking one district be formed, taking health care away from jurisdiction of the county court, but administered by one board.

After town meetings, and recommendation of a survey board, the court decided it would not create a district to administer health care, but would keep it under the court.

The new medical budget calls for

greatly increased expenditures in the north end, recognizing inequities in the past.

The hospital board discussed the possibility of adding the hospital payroll to the court computer and having it paid by the court. The county court thought that might save money. It will be looked in to but no decision was made.

Weather Report

by City of Heppner

February 24 - March 2
High Low Rain Sn

Tues	38	16	0	1"
Wed	38	18	0	
Thurs	42	24	0	
Fri	45	32	0	
Sat	50	37	0	
Sun	56	40	0	
Mon	60	48	0	

Total precipitation for February was 1.12"

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, March 3

Soft White	
March	\$3.16/\$3.17
April	\$3.18
May	\$2.89/\$3.01
June	\$2.92/\$2.89
July	\$2.85/\$2.82
August	\$2.81
Barley	
March-April	\$86
July-Aug	\$77
Hard Red Winter	
Ordinaries	\$3.08
PIK	
Cash	103 1/2 %



Pasco band plans St. Pat's visit

A versatile entertainment band, Night Train, from Pasco will march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Heppner and will perform Saturday night during St. Patrick's Day weekend at the Heppner Elks Club.

The Band used to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Spokane but decided to come to Heppner this year after they learned Heppner has the real Irish festival, said Ken Turner, an organizer for the annual event.

The band features Denny Mahn on the drums and vocals, Alan Brower and Jack Nolan on bass, and Bob Thielen on sax, clarinet, percussion and vocal.

The annual St. Patrick's Day will be held in Heppner on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 13, 14, and 15.

Look for the green coffee cans in local businesses, Turner says, and make a donation to the celebration. Public support is necessary to keep the event going. Donations for the event may also be mailed to Turner or to Dianne Ball, Rudy Bergstrom, or Jerry Hollomon.

Lucky number buttons commemorating the fifth annual Heppner St. Patrick's day celebration are on sale at local stores for \$2.