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North Morrow Clinic reopens

The North Morrow Medical Clinic Board said Monday night that the clinic would reopen Tuesday afternoon following its being closed Monday.

The clinic was closed until the board could meet in emergency session Monday night. Locks were changed on its doors following clinic physician Dr. Steven Zielinski's allegedly admitted a patient to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston under the care of a fictional "Dr. Louis Carlson" at the Morrow County Courthouse.

Locks were changed on the clinic doors board chairman Don Eppenbach said in a letter delivered to Dr. Zielinski by the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, "to safeguard the records and equipment of the clinic from any possible damage. The behavior displayed after the previous disagreement with the Board, i.e. posters torn from walls, chairs overturned, damage to a locked cabinet, has caused us to take this step to protect sensitive files."

The meeting was called and the physician's presence requested, the letter said, "to answer points of concern and to justify the actions taken which appear to be undermining the patient care that the Board is attempting to guard and improve."

Zielinski, who has been the physician in Boardman for two years, said in a letter to the county court that since he has not been paid for contract services since February 11, he might be forced to notify his patients that he would no longer provide emergency medical service. He said he would encourage his patients to contact the county so that other arrangements could be made.

The Court took no action on the letter noting that grievance procedures require the matter be brought before the North Morrow Medical Board before they are brought to the County Court.



Dr. Steven Zielinski

Zielinski has not been paid, by instruction of the county court because he has not turned in time slips, which all county employees (not elected officials) are required to turn in, in order to receive their pay checks. The time slips require notations for overtime, vacation and sick leave days, and number of hours worked.

The disagreement over time slips apparently began in January when the county informed him that the time slips were a condition of his new contracts, and he needed to submit time slips of his hours retroactively to July 1. A provision of the new contract required time slips to verify number of days worked.

The doctor explained that he felt it unreasonable to apply a new policy six months into the contract, because he could not provide an exact record.

Board chairman Don Eppenbach said that was not his prerogative, and that as an employee of the county he was expected to make an effort to comply with county policy.

Morrow County District Attorney Jeff Wallace suggested that he fill out the time cards, and make an accounting of the time, stating it was the best he could remember.

Board member Cliff Peck said that the board trusted the doctor when he was hired. The board agreed to approve his time slips if he would make a reasonable effort to be accurate, and instructed him to turn in current time cards in a timely manner.

On admitting a patient under a fictitious name, Zielinski showed the board a copy of the original admitting slip from the hospital with his name as the attending physician and no other doctor's name listed. He denied instructing the hospital to contact "Dr. L. Carlson," saying that what he had told the nurse was to call "Judge Carlson for a doctor if she wished. He may provide the name of another physician."

Before agreeing to open the clinic Tuesday, the Board asked Zielinski's assurance that he would not walk out and leave patients without care as he has two times in the past, and that he would not confer any additional honorary degrees on private citizens.

The board also instructed Zielinski to meet with the three staff members at the clinic Tuesday morning before the clinic opened to discuss and resolve differences. The board will meet next Monday to evaluate progress in improving staff relations at the clinic.

Incentives for port development urged

A proposal submitted last week to the Boardman City Council would offer incentives for developers to purchase Port of Morrow Property, according to proponents.

The policy, formulated by the Boardman Economic Development Committee, a group comprised of Boardman Chamber of Commerce members, provides rebates for incentives for buyers of port property. According to the proposed policy statement \$1 in rebates would be allowed for every \$20 in assessable improvements and \$1 in rebates would be allowed for every \$20 in payroll for the first 24 months. The statement specified that the assessable improvements would be determined 24 months after closing of the sale and may include buildings and other structures and equipment and machinery to the extent that they will be included on the ad valorem tax rolls. The policy also states that development incentives may equal 100 percent of the land purchase price. Waterfront property to a distance of 1,000 feet from the Columbia River would be offered for lease only.

All other industrial lands will be offered for sale, fee title at market prices. At the request of an industrial user, the Port will consider leasing industrial land.

According to the Chamber of

Commerce, sales of industrial land will require a plan for development and substantial permanent improvements on the land are to be made within two years of purchase.

According to Boardman City Manager and Economic Development Committee Co-Chairman Larry Dalrymple, the policy was developed by the committee to promote development at the Port of Morrow "The (Port of Morrow) Board projects the attitude that we don't want to sell any land. What we'd like to project is that we'd do anything to get you (developers) in here," said Dalrymple.

Port manager Bob Miller said that although the Port of Morrow Commission has not seen the proposed statement officially, the proposal "is not current Port policy." The Port has never followed the general policy of giving away land," said Miller. "We always have sold land," he added.

According to Dalrymple, a lease-only policy is not reacting to current market policies. John Prag, Economic Development Committee co-chairman, says that he believes that developers have had difficulty borrowing money to finance building on leased land and that has inhibited growth on Port property. "We (the Economic Development Committee) need a policy," said Prag. "We believe there is no published policy. Let's let the world know we have something to sell."

Economic Development Committee member and Port of Morrow Commission candidate Bruce Nicholes, Boardman, says that he believes that such a policy would not only increase investments in the county but will also only create jobs and "aid the tax burden for the entire county."

By Avon Melby
Planning problems were addressed by Heppner City Council, the city planners and Morrow County planners at Heppner City Hall Monday night.

The county has authorized a complete study and design to meet the problems around the county office annex on Rock Street. Hartley Seeger has been hired to do the work and has already spent some time inspecting the area. Needs for parking, streets, sidewalks, fences will be included. Noting the complaint by neighbors to the city planning commission last week, Seeger said after inspecting the area he thought the neighbors had been "accommodating" to put up with the conditions so long.

He also said there would be changes in the way the helicopter comes in to pick up patients. Seeger, a brother of Morrow County Planner Deane Seeger, said it was a dangerous situation with highlines too close to the present pad.

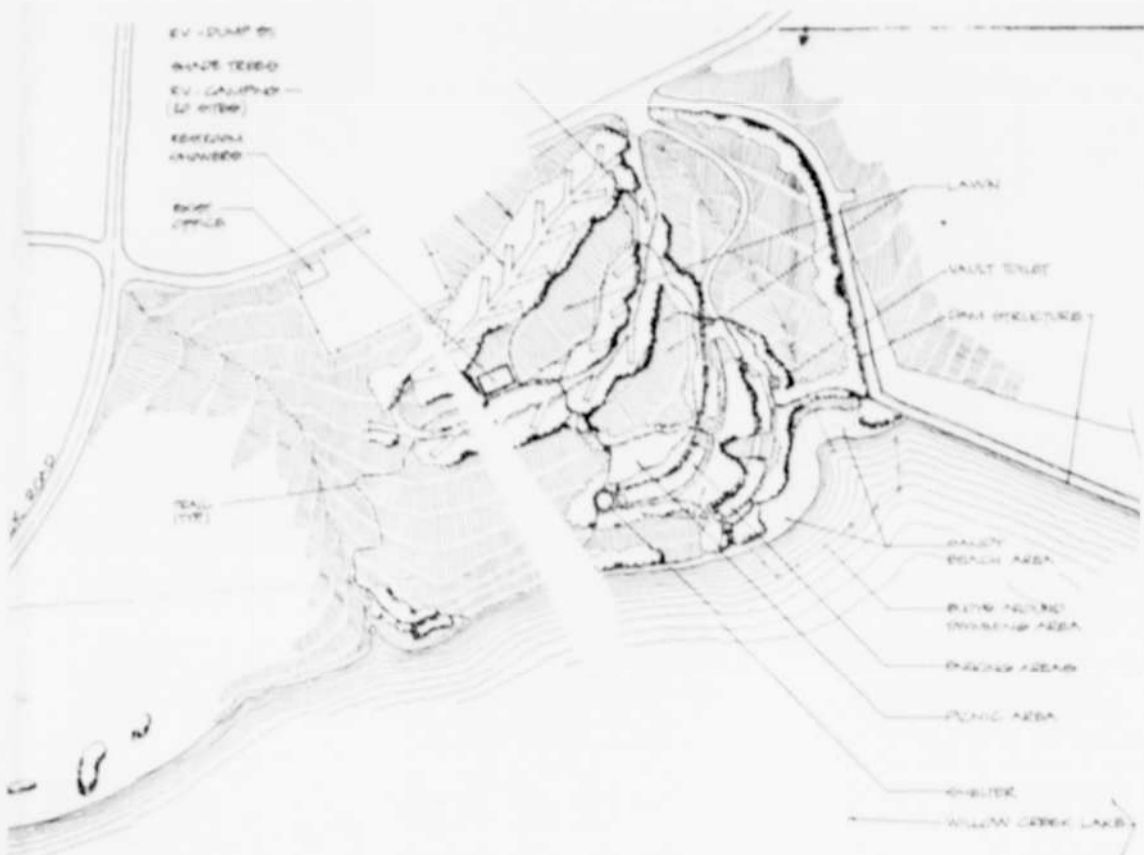
There will be no weeds, and no flying gravel around the pad under the new design, he said. It may be necessary to move the pad to the fairgrounds.

Deane Seeger said the county was in violation of the city zoning ordinance in putting the offices in a residential zone. When the complete background has been uncovered at the courthouse a new application will be sent to the city for a public hearing to request a conditional use permit, or a zone change to allow public buildings in the residential zone.

The two planners said they would have some alternatives for the city to look at to settle all the problems there soon, probably within a week.

More cooperation with the city was promised in the future by Kent Goodyear, Heppner, a member of the county planning commission. He said they wanted to work with both the city council and planners, in all cities in the county. Each community has a member on the county planning commission, and they will start attending their city planning sessions and will be available to meet with the city councils or officials when needed. "We're taking a more active position, to make it easier to have more cooperation in the future."

Various ways of meeting the problems created in providing city water to Ken Key on cemetery hill were



WILLOW CREEK PARK

Park district to ask levy approval

The Willow Creek Park District will be asking voters March 31 to approve a park operating levy of \$29,300.

The money would be used only for operation once the park is constructed, with actual construction funds coming from grants and donated labor and materials.

The newly located equipment operators training school at the Port of Morrow along with other contractors, organizations and volunteers

have indicated they will donate \$213,000 worth of materials and services for actual construction of the 20 unit RV park and swimming and day use area. Along with that is a grant from the state Parks and Recreation Assoc. for \$208,000 which will total the \$421,000 to be used for actual construction of the park.

Located on the lake next to the dam, the park would provide RV parking with trailer dump site, a day

use or picnicking area and a swimming area.

One levy to operate the park has already been defeated by voters on November 4, 1986, by a 889 to 743 margin.

Estimated tax rates to finance the \$29,300 operating budget is 17 cents per \$1000 of valuation, or \$8.50 per year on a \$50,000 home.

The Willow Creek Park District includes Heppner, Ione and Lexington, the southern part of Morrow County.



Operating engineers training school, which has agreed to do work on construction of the Willow Creek Park, is shown here working on a little league park at Reedsport, Oregon.

Planner will study problems at Morrow County Annex

By Avon Melby
Dan Meador, planning consultant hired by the city to assist the local planning commission in updating the city's comprehensive plan, listed several in a report he sent

the planners. "If you were just in the county, it would be very easy to take care of this," Seeger told Key. But city zoning adopted by Heppner is more restrictive. One way around it

would be to include a "local improvement district" clause to take effect if further development demanded more services from the city in that area. Seeger said he would have suggestions within a week.

First county-wide medical board appointed

The first Morrow County Medical Board was appointed by the County Court last week. Board members terms will begin July 1 when the existing North Morrow Medical Center Board, the Boardman Ambulance Board, and the Pioneer Memorial

Hospital Board will be disbanded. Mary Michaels, Don Eppenbach and Frank Pearson were recommended for the countywide board by the boards on which they now serve. The Court made their appointment

to the countywide board official at Wednesday's court meeting.

Other members appointed to the board to represent the county's five cities are Jacki Bergstrom, Ione Barbara Wadekamper, Irrigon, Lucille Peck, Lexington, Ed Glenn, Boardman, and Marcia Anderson, Boardman.

Although Anderson is currently a member of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Board, she will be representing the City of Heppner. Judge Louis Carlson said. She has received the most attention from the community as the logical person to represent them, he said. No other name has been predominant from the Heppner area.

The Court considered Cliff Peck as well as Ed Glenn to represent Boardman, the judge continued, but decided that Peck was needed on the North Morrow Medical Clinic Board. "There is some heavy responsibility on the board now and they will have to make some weighty decisions before July 1," the judge said.

Terms of the original board members will be staggered, so not all terms expire at the same time. Board members will be appointed by the County Court and, except for the first board, will serve four year terms.

Heppner council to learn goal setting

By Avon Melby
Service on the council in Heppner is donated, with no financial remuneration. The position calls for public-spirited men and women who sometimes work long hours on city business.

It was no wonder then there were a few groans when council members were informed at a special meeting Monday night they were expected to spend the hours from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at city hall April 4. Especially with the weather hopefully good

enough for golf or gardening, or whatever they wanted to do on a spring-like Saturday.

Mayor Cara Costa said the meeting would be a goal setting session. Sylvia Rose of the League of Oregon Cities has been taking training to conduct these meetings and to act as a facilitator for the cities.

"This is a part of her training and we are getting her services for free," Costa said.

After this one free session, others she does will cost the subscribing city a \$400 fee.



Chief settles in new office

Heppner Police Chief Doug Rathbun sits behind desk in the new Police Dept. office at Heppner City Hall. Heppner police moved into the room which had been used for Fire Dept. meetings when he firefighters bought the building which houses the fire trucks.

The Heppner City crew put a new ceiling in the new police department office and built an evidence room. Members of the police department painted and cleaned their new office. The Police Dept. can still be reached by calling the City of Heppner, 676-9618.

Market Report

Commodity of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, March 17	
Soft White	
March	\$ 3.10
April	\$ 3.11
May	\$3.05/\$2.99
June	\$2.92/\$2.87
July	\$2.85/\$2.82
August	\$2.81
Barley	
March-April	\$87
May	\$83/81
July-Aug	\$77
Hard Red Winter	
Ordinaries	\$3.01
PIK	
Generic Certificates	103%

St. Pat's photos see page 11