

## County court discusses Army impact aid

By Doris Brosnan

At the County Court meeting on Oct. 11, County Counsel Bill Hanlon, Director of Planning Tamra Mabbott, and the court continued discussion of the impact-aid issue and of the agreement with the Army for funding of permitting and an environmental specialist.

The county had considered the permitting agreement final until the Army stated that the signed contract was merely a draft.

Hanlon reviewed the history of the permit situation, which dates back to February 1998, noting investments of time, as in the pipeline issue, not addressed by the Army.

Hanlon also suggested that the representative of the Army be reminded of promises made at that time.

Mabbott added that she has submitted materials to and conversed with a representative of DEQ, as well, and she observed that transportation and

housing are also issues, as is the county's wanting to be treated as equal participants.

Judge Terry Tallman said that he had talked to the acting director of DEQ. Commissioner Dan Brosnan suggested that getting the state's Community Solutions Team (CST) involved might draw the governor's attention. Mabbott suggested that progress might result from a meeting with the DEQ representatives, rather than the CST, and Brosnan added that a representative of the state's attorney general's office would be a good third party to invite to such a meeting.

The court agreed that Hanlon and Mabbott will create a letter to the Army representative. Brosnan also suggested apprising congressional representatives of the contract signed by the county in good faith but delayed by the Army.

With maps of the Act of Congress lands acquired by the county from the railroad

abandonment, the court reviewed some parcels with multiple adjacent landowners. Methods of dealing with the situation were discussed, as were lot-line adjustments. Mabbott, Hanlon, County Assessor Greg Sweek, and a commissioner will meet about three weeks to work out a process for dealing with the lands.

Hanlon and the court discussed the contract received from the Port of Morrow for the sharing of costs in the appeal of the ground-squirrel listing. Not attached was the legal description of the property being transferred to the port in lieu of funding, so the court will resolve the issue before signing. In answer to a question from Hanlon, the court noted no apparent progress on the ramp modifications at the agricultural display building, so Hanlon agreed to write another letter to the contractor.

A representative of the Education Service District (ESD) met with the court to discuss the

network rewiring of the courthouse and the improvement of lines from the courthouse to the Pioneer Annex. The court agreed with Assessor Greg Sweek that decisions be postponed until after Sweek, the ESD representative, and Judge Tallman set related priorities for the year.

Judge Charlotte Gray of Justice Court and a consultant presented to the court a proposal of putting the justice court database on a secured, "locked room," Internet location.

The consultant described the security features of such a location and noted that Nyssa and Ontario courts are now on the system.

Advantages of the method, noted by the consultant, are reliability, ability to access data without having to transfer it from Irrigon or Heppner, defendants' ability to make payments via the Internet, elimination of software problems currently experienced, and elimination of redundant data protection. The consultant assured the court of multiple power supplies, no hardware

purchase, regular updates, constant performance of self-diagnostics and backups taken off site daily. He informed the court of costs - set-up, monthly usage and per-minute usage. The court agreed to examine the option.

Assistant Public Works Director Bob Nairns reported the following: Anson Wright Park road work is close to completion, and the DEQ inspection approved the park project. Blading continues, on upper Little Buttercreek, Hinton Creek, Porcupine, Hardman Ridge Road and Lindsay Road. Painting is complete on Wilson Road and patching and fog sealing is complete on Poleline and Homestead roads. The crusher will be used at Brenner Canyon. Work continues on the approaches to Jordan Bridge, and the property on West Wilson Road used as a staging area has been cleaned.

Other actions taken by the court included the following:  
- reappointment of Mike Armato, Butch Smith and John Wenholz to the Board of

Property Tax Appeals;  
- approval of a second Visa card for the planning department;  
- approval of a temporary hire by the clerk's office to fill a temporary shortage of staff.

## Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses:

Aug. 17: Santos Will Guardado, 36, Umatilla; and Rosa Tomasa Nieto, 33, Umatilla.

Oct. 6: Ruben Andy Davila, 25, Boardman; and Elvia Citballi Ayala, 17, Boardman.

Oct. 13: Rodney G. Wallace, 48, Irrigon; and Lilibeth Bag-Id Encorporado, 21, Irrigon.

Ray Charles Schmitt, Jr., 23, Spokane, WA.; and Amy Lynn Wagenblast, 28, Spokane, WA.

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