

County discusses museum funding, building issues

By Doris Brosnan

The Morrow County Court discussed issues concerning the Morrow County Museum at its on October 18 meeting.

Morrow County Commissioner Dan Brosnan reported that the Museum Commission met on October 17 to discuss the relationship among the Museum Foundation, the Museum Commission and the county court.

Issues stem from the reduction in funding by the county and discussion centered on combining the foundation and commission into one governing entity that would enter a management contract with the county.

County Counsel Bill Hanlon attended the October 17 meeting to provide legal guidance.

Those in attendance at that meeting agreed that the county should retain possession of the building and of the donations, which were made to the county. The new board would take responsibility for fund-raising and operation and maintenance of the museum. Brosnan anticipates that the county would continue financial support.

Commissioner John Wenholz expressed concern over the inefficiency of the building in terms of heating and noted the need to address that issue. Public Works Director Burke O'Brien interjected that he and maintenance supervisor Les Paustian are developing a schedule of maintenance for all the county buildings. The court agreed to move forward with the proposal and Wenholz asked that it be completed before the next budget session.

Discussion continued on questions of setting up, financing and insuring a new board, future donations, what would be best for the future of the museum, issues surrounding the building and management needs.

Planning Director Tamra Mabbott and J.R. Wilkenson, of WG Consulting, addressed the court about the environmental specialist position for which the county is seeking funding from the Army.

Wilkenson offered information on his CSEPP-related experience and nuclear and chemical expertise and, in a presentation, explained to the court the vast number and types of environmental monitoring issues surrounding the chemical depot incinerator. He recommended the county's concentration on CSEPP certification, environmental/human-health monitoring, and the issue of on-site storage of hazardous waste.

Brosnan voiced his concern over the use of unproven technology. Judge Terry Tallman reported that DEQ has guaranteed that there will be no hazardous waste issues. Wilkenson posed questions about the county's goals and objectives and said he can assist the county in these matters.

Enterprise zone manager/assessor Greg Sweek and Kenn Evans of Irrigon addressed the court about Evans' request, made last year, to add property to the Columbia River Enterprise Zone. Sweek recommended approval of the inclusion. After discussion, the court approved annexing the Evans property, reference #4355 and #4358, into the enterprise zone.

Sweek reported that he will be able to advise the court next week of property values and he told Hanlon that he will provide him information on total value for the bond counsel. Tallman reported that the Option One company has renewed work on the accounting programs.

Boardman City Manager Rex Mather appeared to question the court about the Behavioral Health Department's proposed transitional housing for alcohol and drug rehabilitation program clients. He expressed concerns about zoning and other issues. Tallman explained that director of Behavioral Health Kelly Sager has been requested to speak to the Boardman Council about the concept.

Boardman Rural Fire District Chief Marc Rogelstad advised the court that the district has

received a request to annex 2700 acres to the west, around the airport. Fire district personnel are contacting surrounding property owners about annexation, which the board has approved. Rogelstad also described some reorganization of the board membership.

Rogelstad told the court of a communications plan for Boardman, using the CSEPP VHF system. Wenholz noted support of the plan by the CSEPP Board but added that some equipment problems still need fixing. Rogelstad answered questions about training, the equipment, radio frequencies and use of the Incident Command System.

Max Hellberg met with the court to discuss his subdividing of a five-acre parcel into four parcels, creating a need for access to all of them. Mabbott showed the court a map of the Gravel Pit Lane and Kangaroo Court Lane area and described an easement along two sides of the parcel, which shows on a survey but not on the deeds. Possible options that could involve the county and the state were discussed but no action taken.

O'Brien read the court a letter of appreciation from the Baker County Roadmaster for the "hard work and professionalism" of Carolyn Proebstal and Dave Pranger in the striping of their roads. He reported that the Anson Wright Park camping sites should be inspected by October 23 and open for use on October 24 if they pass. O'Brien said that the Jordan Bridge approach work should be complete next week and paving within the next two weeks. He reported that the state was very helpful with the detour during that project.

O'Brien also reported the clean up of a weekend rock slide on Gooseberry and completion of painting and near completion of fog sealing.

In response to a question from Brosnan, O'Brien said that the results of the November levy will determine some future scheduling of various road projects.

The court also discussed with Mabbott and the building inspector, Brett Cook, an apparent reimbursement discrepancy that resulted during the transition of the building inspection program from the state to the county.

Noting that the state remains responsible for payment of some inspections completed by Cook, the court agreed that it will add a cover letter to a letter of explanation to the state from Cook. Brosnan said that he has heard positive reports of Cook's inspection services.

Other action taken by the court included the following:

- approval of an approach from Fourth Street in Irrigon;
- approval of a permit to Umatilla Electric Cooperative for an overhead line over Kunze Road;
- approval of the agreement with the Port of Morrow for the appeal of the ground squirrel listing;
- approval and signing of a revised contract with the city of Boardman for law enforcement and prosecutorial services with the county.

HHS senior class meeting set Oct. 30

The HHS senior class has scheduled a meeting on Monday, October 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the HHS library to plan for their graduation trip. Seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend this crucial meeting.

A decision will be made on the trip destination and seniors must indicate whether or not they plan to go on the trip at the October 30 meeting. Reports will be given on possible trips prior to a vote.

Plans will also be made for fund raising projects.

The class plans a baked potato/chili feed on Friday, Nov. 3, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds prior to the HHS football game vs. Umatilla which begins at 7:30 p.m.

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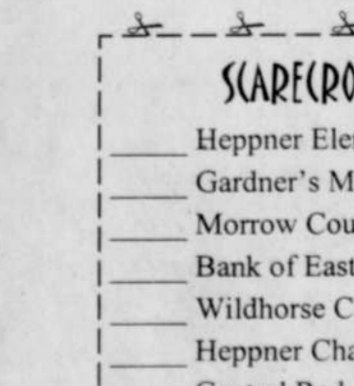
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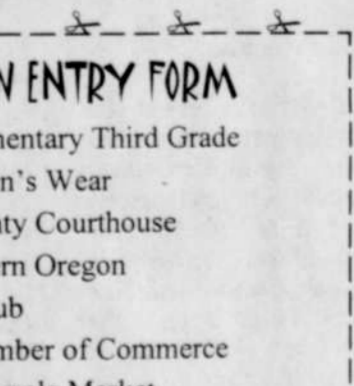
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Bring entry form to the G-T by Oct. 31st

Take your entry form to the Heppner Gazette-Times Contest deadline is Tuesday, October 31.

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