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HEPPNER



VOL. 120 NO. 20 12 Pages Wednesday, May 16, 2001 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Court holds hearing on RFPD annexation

By Doris Brosnan

The Morrow County Court meeting on May 2 was extremely brief because the commissioners spent most of the day at a meeting.

The court opened with a public hearing to consider petitions to annex territory into the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District. No one appeared for comment and the court noted that all the affected landowners were petitioners. County Assessor Greg Sweek indicated on a map the affected territory. The court approved the annexation.

The court reviewed and approved an assessment and taxation grant application to the Department of Revenue, noting that the grant dollars are down about \$23,000 from last year. They approved an interfund loan from the General Fund to the Domestic Violence Fund, to be repaid before the end of the 2000-2001 fiscal year. The court also approved a grant agreement between the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps and the Commission on Children and Families. A brief discussion focused on the Special Transportation program and the RSVP program, to be continued.

At the May 9 meeting of the Commissioners, Jerry Healy, Manager of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, and Planning Director Tamra Mabbott discussed with the Court an application for an easement to construct a gas pipeline, fiber optic cable and waterline. Healy explained the purpose for each line and the reasoning behind combining the three into one ditch. Hanlon reviewed terms of the County's easement, noting the need for authorization from landowners who acquired land from the Union Pacific Railroad, unless the County is the installer. After more discussion, the Court authorized Columbia Basin Electric to apply for a conditional use permit.

Mabbott also presented a changed draft agreement between the County and DEQ for the environmental specialist, noting that she has questions for the DEQ's contract officer. Mabbott and Hanlon will compile a list of questions for a meeting that Judge Terry Tallman will set up with the Court and the officer. The Court also reviewed a letter from the DEQ regarding the State Attorney General's opinion on enforcement of the County's toxic waste ordinance.

County counsel Bill Hanlon and the court continued discussion of the Norman Ruhl Pit. Hanlon reviewed the history of the pit agreement and reported the status of attempts to establish a new contract. Hanlon agreed to set up a meeting with the owners and the county.

Hanlon reported that some Morrow County residents have petitioned for inclusion into the Pilot Rock Fire District and

Commissioner Dan Brosnan requested the Assessor's Office to check maps and descriptions to assure that those who do not want to be included in the petition are not.

Hanlon informed the Court of a letter received from the Lexington Fire District regarding the possible extension of fire protection services near Lexington. Judge Tallman noted that referenced county property is Act-of-Congress land, but he will ask about the property on which the road office is located and about the airport property. A brief discussion also ensued about procedures for the sale of Act-of-Congress parcels, lot-line adjustments and recording fees.

Hanlon commented on the CSEPP exercise of the previous day and members of the Court agreed that a decisive command structure is imperative.

The court observed that some local forest-education programs may be eligible for funding through Senate Bill 1608. Commissioner Brosnan has contacted the Superintendent of Schools and the Director of the OSU Extension about this opportunity. The court briefly discussed the Oregon Garden project and agreed to support it.

Public Works Director Burke O'Brien reported the following: The crew crack sealed, prepared for paving, did punch-list work and shoulder work and fog sealed on the Columbia Avenue project. They repaired washout damage on McNab and Bunker Hill and finished road grading on Upper Little Butter Creek, French Road, Blake Ranch Road, Nichols Road and Nolan Lane. They are now blading and working on the clearing of brush and old stumps at Cutsforth park. To conserve power, they have installed timers in the Lexington truck shed. O'Brien discussed with the court the question of paving five approaches into Buchanan's development. Authorized to pave, O'Brien will contact property owners to request they move fences to their property lines.

The result, O'Brien reported, of a burn of small piles of brush at the transfer site without first notifying DEQ, will be a letter of non-compliance from DEQ. He has written DEQ a notice that he will no longer allow burns at the site, and he said that brush will, instead, be placed in the dumpsters. Commissioner Brosnan noted that yard waste is accepted at the mill site for incineration.

Other actions of the court:
- approval of the request for the Columbia Plateau Stage Race route;
- approval of a contract with Jane Richards as volunteer host at Anson Wright Park and with Judy Horton for the same at Cutsforth Park;
- approval of the Wilkinson Skinner Creek quarry renewal

agreement;

- approval of proposed changes to fees in the Public Works Department: airport hangar rent, map-size copy charges, transfer station fees and rural addressing fees;

- approval of a contract, a continuation of an existing grant, with the Oregon Health Sciences University for a program for children with special health needs;

- approval of a Behavioral Health contract with Linda Albrecht;

- correction of a quitclaim deed;

- approval of a deed with Arnold and Marie Phipps;

- signing of an order to rescind the 1981 closure of a portion of Eastregard Veje;

- annexation of territory into the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District;

- approval of an addendum with Tim Holt to add clinical director services;

- agreement to check the deed terms for the library/museum building;

- approval of a request that the Oregon Youth Authority increase the number of beds allotted to Morrow County.

Clinics seek reading material

Pioneer Memorial Clinic and Irrigon Medical Clinic are seeking current magazines and other appropriate reading material for their waiting rooms.

The staff encourages people to bring magazines not older than April 2001 to the clinic. They ask that people remove the address labels from the magazines.

School bond passes

The Morrow County School District Bond Levy, which will provide funds to build elementary schools in Boardman and Irrigon and improvements and maintenance projects for all schools in the district, passed 1387 to 1133 Tuesday.

According to results released by Morrow County Clerk Barbara Bloodsworth, the county precinct breakdown is as follows: #1 North Boardman-58 yes, 80 no; #2 South Boardman-172 yes, 154 no; #3 Hardman-9 yes, 11 no; #4 Lone-248 yes, 98 no; #5 North Irrigon-218 yes, 148 no; #6 South Irrigon-230 yes, 150 no; #7 Lexington-107 yes, 114 no; #8 Northeast Heppner-87 yes, 111 no; #9 Northwest Heppner-83 yes, 111 no; #10 Southeast Heppner-73 yes, 81 no; #11 Southwest Heppner-102 yes, 75 no.

Results are unofficial.

School board members' residency challenged

The Morrow County School Board has received a complaint that board members Barney Lindsay and Keith Lewis do not reside in the zones from which they were elected.

Board Chair Gary Frederickson said at the regular board meeting Monday night that

See zone map & description page 2

Dan Metz new scoutmaster



Dan Metz

By Debbie Harper

Dan Metz is the new scoutmaster of Heppner Boy Scout Troop 661.

Metz has a long scouting history. He started as a Cub Scout, progressed through Webelos and reached the rank of Life Scout with his troop in Cottage Grove. He was also voted into the Order of the Arrow as a Boy Scout. Metz has been an assistant Scoutmaster but this is his first time as Scoutmaster. "I would like to see Troop 661 become a strong and active troop in our community," he said.

Typical Boy Scout activities will be campouts, hiking trips, summer camp, participation in community events and service projects. Older scouts will have opportunities to do more advance things such as river rafting, rock climbing and mountain climbing.

The troop is holding an organizational meeting on Sunday, May 20, at 6 p.m., upstairs at the Heppner Elks Club. Any boys from ages 11 through 17 are invited to bring their parents, meet Dan and learn more about Boy Scouting.

Troop 661 is also seeking adult volunteers to serve in such positions as Assistant Scoutmaster, committee member and merit badge counselor.

Metz works for the Oregon Department of Transportation. He transferred to Heppner last July from Brothers. His wife Melissa works at the Artisan Village in Heppner. They are expecting their first child in January.

someone contacted him alleging that Lindsay does not actually reside at his claimed residence in Zone 6, but rather Zone 2, and that Lewis, 440 Terrace Drive, Heppner, actually lives a block outside Zone 4, in Zone 6.

"It's a real serious thing, because if we are out of compliance we've got to get it handled," said Frederickson. The concern among the board was that prior voting may be contested.

Lindsay said that he has maintained his residency at Feedlot Road, which is in Zone 6 since he returned to Morrow County after college. He said his official residency had been investigated before and the issue had been resolved. He said his family owns property on both sides of Bombin Range Road, which divides the two zones.

"People are telling me you don't live there," said Frederickson. "No, I do live there," countered Lindsay.

While Lindsay and Lewis had butted heads with the majority of the board previously

over staffing cuts, and boycotted an executive session because they claimed the board met illegally over land purchase issues, Frederickson maintained that the issue was "not a personal issue at all."

John Witty, a lawyer employed by the ESD and representing the district, was present at the meeting and said several criteria could be used to establish legal residency,

including addresses listed in the phone book. Lindsay's address is listed in the current phone book as 68062 Lindsay Road, rather than as the Feedlot Road address. However, that criteria may not make the test, suggested Lindsay, as board member Dwayne Carroll is listed in the phone book as having a Hermiston address and a Hermiston phone number, while his home actually lies inside Morrow County.

The board scheduled a special meeting on Wednesday, June 6, at 7 p.m. to resolve the issue.

Water project gets underway



A \$1.2 million water project got underway this week in Lone. The project was funded through a USDA Rural Utilities Service grant and loan with interim loan financing by the Bank of Eastern Oregon. According to city of Lone Maintenance Supervisor Dan Anderson (pictured above) the project will entail installing new water lines which will loop into the existing system and traverse across the field (above right) to the well housing. A new reservoir will go on the hill overlooking the city.

Heppner High School crowns prom court



The Heppner High School prom court was crowned at the dance held Saturday, May 5, at the HHS cafeteria. The prom theme was "Save the Last Dance." Court members are as follows (left to right): Back-King Craig Scott, Prince Ryan Matteson, Prince Justin Wood, Prince Scott VanWinkle; Front-Queen Krista Adams, Princess San Juanita Elguezabal, Princess Sarah Eckman, Princess Marissa McCabe.

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