

County Court news

The Morrow County Court met on June 1 in Heppner with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance.

The court reviewed and approved the account payables in the net amount of \$39,510.58. The court reviewed and approved a purchasing pre-authorization for the Public Health Dept. in the amount of \$729.58 to purchase an Epson PowerLite 1750 Multimedia Projector for PowerPoint presentations.

Road Report: Road Master Burke O'Brien provided the court with an update on the Chip Seal Project occurring on Willow Creek Road. O'Brien reported that on Monday May 23 the project started with 3.3 miles (in both

lanes) having been completed using 116.16 tons of oil at a cost of \$622.50 per ton including freight. The crew also used 274 tons of rock per mile at a cost of \$12 per ton. With oil, rock, equipment and manpower, the cost to chip seal is approximately \$30,105 per mile. Tuesday May 24 the crew put down 4.4 miles (in both lanes) using 154.8 tons of oil. Wednesday May 25 2.7 miles was put down (in both lanes) using 95.04 tons of oil. The crew was rained out in the afternoon. On Thursday May 26 the crew worked on several other projects. Removed debris from both east and west Baseline Road and swept it. Sand Hollow Road was swept. Removed some drifts from the Penland Lake Road to allow week-

end use. The crew completed moving the crusher units from the Wilkerson Rock Pit to the Halverson Pit. The only equipment remaining at Wilkerson Pit is a loader and D8. The crew also worked on a slide on Upper Rhea Creek Road. Tuesday May 31 the crew again worked on Willow Creek Road and completed 4.5 miles (in both lanes) using 154.88 tons of oil. The plans are for Wednesday June 1 to do another 4.4 miles; if this happens there will only be two miles to finish on Thursday (weather permitting). The crew will then chip seal a driveway that a local farmer is paying to have done. That will end the chip seal season.

Parks: The Parks were all well attended on Memorial Day Weekend;

despite bad weather everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. There were approximately 70 individuals at Cutsforth Park, 100 at Anson Wright Park and 230 at the OHV Park.

Fairgrounds: Weather permitting the fairgrounds roof should be finished by June 6, 2011.

Court House: General Maintenance Supervisor Tony Clement will be checking into and repairing the water issue on the corner of the building and will put a security screen on the computer room window in the basement. There is also some concern as to paint beginning to peel on the roof dormer. It has been several years since the trim around the roof has been painted, so those needs will be addressed.

Public Hearing: The court opened and due to an advertising error continued the hearing for the Lone Library District Formation. The next hearing date is set for 10 a.m. June 22, 2011 at the Heppner Court House.

Local Public Safety Coordinating Council: (LPSCC) The court reviewed and signed an amendment to the bylaws for LPSCC. The changes were in the areas of membership, terms of office and quorum. The policy of no voting by temporary proxy was continued. Commission on Children and Families director Kim Carmine informed the court that LPSCC has received a grant from the Ford Family Foundation in the amount of \$4,400 to be used for the backpack program. The

court then approved a professional services agreement with Tara Proudfoot to assist with the acquisition of backpacks for the program. The agreement begins on June 6, 2011 and terminates on August 15, 2011 at a rate of \$21.60 per hour. Carmine then presented the court potential names for appointment to LPSCC. The court approved the following members: Morrow Co. Judge Terry Tallman, Morrow Co. District Attorney Justin Nelson, Morrow Co. Commissioner on Children and Families Director Kim Carmine, Morrow Co. Juvenile Department Director Tom Meier, Morrow Co. Sheriff Ken Matlack, Morrow Co. Public Health Director Sheree Smith, Umatilla-Morrow Circuit Court Judge the Honorable Eva Temple, Umatilla-Morrow Counties Trial Court Administrator Roy Blaine, Dept. of Human Services Child Welfare Program Supervisor Jyl Hobbs, Heppner City Manager David DeMayo, Mayor of Heppner Les Paustian, Mayor of the City of Lexington Jean Brazell, Community Counseling Solutions Director Kimberly Lindsay and Court Operations Supervisor Jackie Geier.

Contracts: The Court reviewed and approved the correction to the agreement between the county and Finley-Buttes Landfill Company regarding the current adjusted rate per ton being \$1,958; the rate will increase to \$2,007 in November 2011.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): At the court's request GEODC executive director Melissa Druge, GEODC economic development specialist Karen Kendall and consultant for GEODC David VanDerlip answered questions the court had regarding the applications and awards for the CDBG housing rehabilitation program grant. Kendall stated that they have already received 24 responses to the master mailing that went out earlier. The court approved this process and requested a public notice be sent to the local newspapers and scheduled a public hearing for 10 a.m. on June 15, 2011 at the Port of Morrow. A copy of the minutes will need to be signed at the court's meeting held June 22 and forwarded to GEODC so they are able to have a completed application to submit before the end of June.

The court conducted the following business: City of Irrigon Manager Jerry Breazeale addressed the court regarding Morrow County exercising its authority to take half of the county road funds that have historically gone to the five communities based on their assessed value, using these funds to balance the budget. The court explained that this action was the result of changes to state laws and county budget shortfalls and informed Breazeale that next year the county would be retaining the entire amount of the county road funding. The court reviewed, approved and signed an order allowing the Morrow County treasurer to invest funds of the county. The court reviewed and approved a request from the City of Lone to spend needs and issues money for items not designated in the original award. Reviewed misc. correspondences and discussed upcoming meetings.

If you would like to receive county minutes, please contact Karen Wolff at (541)676-5620.



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