

Health district approves budget

District anticipates loss for next year

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board voted Monday to accept a proposed 2012-13 budget, which shows an estimated loss of \$66,047 for the next

fiscal year. The loss will be covered by the district's cash carryover.

Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board that she was very conservative in her projections, considering that in previous years the projected resources from operations had been somewhat overestimated compared to the actual figures.

"It's hard to predict, so we tried to be a little conservative. Obviously, a lot of the numbers are estimates," Mahoney stressed.

She also commented that without the additional five-year serial levy voters approved earlier, the district would not have enough income to sustain itself.

"With the budget looking the way it is, I expect we will need it again," she commented. The district is in the fourth year of a five-year serial levy.

The budget also includes a five percent increase in service rates for all departments, effective July 1.

The 2012-13 budget shows \$8,697,619 in resources and \$1,192,856 in tax revenue for \$9,890,475 in total resources, compared to \$9,956,522 in total expenditures for a \$66,047 decrease in cash.

Last year's 2011-12 adopted budget included \$8,812,203 in resources and \$1,131,502 in tax revenue for \$9,943,705 in total resources, compared

to \$9,743,647 in expenditures.

Mahoney said that an 83 percent increase in Workman's Comp insurance, amounting to around \$43,000, is one big factor in the negative bottom line.

Proposed resources and expenditures by department are as follows:

- **H o s p i t a l**-\$5,116,232 in resources vs \$5,326,256 in expenditures;

- **Home Health & Hospice**-\$572,855 in resources vs \$650,857 in expenditures;

- **Boardman Ambulance**-\$269,861 in resources vs \$298,333 in expenditures;

- **Irrigon Ambulance**-\$217,034 in resources vs \$175,669 in expenditures;

- **Heppner Clinic**-\$971,990 in resources vs \$1,006,096 in expenditures;

- **Irrigon Clinic**-\$432,825 in resources vs \$329,296 in expenditures;

Other resources include: other revenue-\$130,400 (dietary & cafeteria revenue, rental income, miscellaneous income and reimbursements and contract revenue with Willow Creek Terrace and Columbia River Ranch); donations and grants-\$167,235; interest income-\$40,500; capital leases-\$120,000; operating, capital, long and short term loans-\$150,000; community service fees-\$60,000; electronic health record

reimbursements-\$448,687.

Other expenditures include: emergency medical services (Lexington and Ione)-\$16,096; Boardman clinic donations and community benefit grants-\$50,000; revenue reductions and bad debt-\$1,158,344; capital purchases-\$443,735; capital lease principal reduction-\$45,000; long and short term debt principal reduction-\$456,840.

Budgeted expenditures include the following capital purchases: \$250,000-Irrigon Clinic expansion; \$140,000-ambulance and defibrillator for Irrigon (scheduled replacement); \$44,735-two defibrillators for Boardman and Heppner ambulances; \$9,000-Pioneer Memorial Clinic heating and ventilating system; total-\$443,735 with \$75,000 to be financed by a bank loan, \$195,000 to be financed by other loans, \$41,500 to be paid with cash on hand and \$132,235 to be paid by grants and donated funds.

Also at the meeting, the board:

-learned that the district ended up in the black in March with a \$30,219 gain for the month. The district showed \$597,821 in gross patient revenue and \$114,068 in revenue deductions for \$483,752 in net patient revenue and \$592,552 in total operating revenue; \$592,134 in total operating expenses and a \$29,801 non-operating gain. The

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HEPPNER

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'Work on Wellness' meeting held

The Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) of Morrow County hosted "Work on Wellness" sessions with local businesses in Heppner and Boardman on April 24-25 to examine the health needs identified for Morrow County, opportunities for businesses to affect the health of the community, and options for worksites interested in developing wellness programs to encourage healthy employees and reduce health care costs.

Andrea Fletcher opened the session with a presentation of information about the health needs of Morrow County, how the social and physical environment people live, work and play in (livability of a community) affects well-being, and how a community working together can advance the quality of life for individuals through thoughtfully planned and coordinated programs and services coupled with a supportive environment.

Jan Noland, City-county Insurance Services, presented a summary of what influences health care insurance premium costs, and how modifying the lifestyle factors that contribute to the development of chronic disease (over-



Jan Noland of City-county Insurance Services addresses attendees at a Work on Wellness session recently. -Contributed photo

weight/obesity, tobacco use and physical activity) can address the future decline of health status for individuals and decrease health related costs.

Dawn Robbins, Oregon Health Authority Wellness@Work Program, navigated <https://dwp1.dhs.oregon.gov/WellnessAtWork>, a web-based tool with free resources available to help businesses both large and small gauge their health environment, learn about assessing employee interests, needs and health risks, and generate ideas for workplace activities or programs to support employee wellness.

Tricia Rollins, Bank of Eastern Oregon; Marcia Kemp, United States Forrester Service, Heppner Ranger District; Roz Pe-

dro, Conagra Foods Lamb Weston; and Karen Keger, Boardman Foods, Inc. described their organizations' philosophies about healthy employees, incentives, programs and physical environments that prompted them to institute worksite wellness initiatives.

Work on Wellness was funded by the Northwest Health Foundation and supported by CHIP, Columbia River Community Health Services, Morrow County Public Health Department and Commission on Children and Families, Community Counseling Solutions, Morrow County Health District, Heppner and Boardman chambers of commerce, Dale Bates and CenturyLink. See <http://www.ohsu.edu/MCCHIP> for more information.

Ballot drop locations

Ballots are due by May 15 at 8 p.m. Completed ballots may be mailed or dropped off at any of the following locations provided by the Morrow County Clerk:

Heppner: Courthouse parking lot. Open 24 hours, April 27 until 8 p.m. May 15. Or, the Morrow County Clerk's Office, Room 102 inside the courthouse. Open 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., M-F and Election Day (May 15) from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Lexington: 365 West Hwy 74 (Public Works Parking lot). Turn off Hwy. 74 onto Tom Street and left into the public works parking lot. Open 24 hours, April 27 until 8 p.m. May 15.

Ione: Spring St.



Twenty-four-hour ballot drop sites like this one at the Morrow County Courthouse allow easy access to Morrow County voters. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

(in front of the turn to 3rd Street). Open 24 hours, April 27 until 8 p.m. May 15.

Irrigon: 205 NE 3rd St. (Irrigon Annex). Open 24 hours, April 27 until 8 p.m. May 15.

Boardman: NW Boardman Ave. Open 24 hours, April 27 until 8 p.m. May 15.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Doherty named public works director

Harmon leaving for Prineville job

By David Sykes

Chad Doherty was named public works director for the city of Heppner at a special city council meeting last Wednesday night.

The city council met to go over applications for the soon-to-be-vacant city manager's job, but it also was announced that current Public Works Director Brian Harmon is leaving to take a superintendent job in Prineville. Harmon has worked for the city for the past 12 years.

After learning of

Harmon's departure, the council voted to promote Doherty from assistant public works director to head public works director. Doherty, 36, has worked for the city for the past eight years.

In the main business of the meeting, the council sifted through 30 applications for the soon-to-be-vacant city manager's job, currently held by Dave DeMayo, who is retiring.



Chad Doherty

through the applications, which were numbered so the names of applicants were not revealed, and narrowed their possible choices down to nine. Of those, the council will begin interviews and background checks to further narrow their choices.

DeMayo has said he will stay on until August until his replacement is found.

EOU update meeting & reception held in Heppner

Eastern Oregon University President Bob Davies met with community leaders at a reception at Rep. Greg Smith's home in Heppner on April 26.

Davies gave an update on the university's current activities and its plans for the future. EOU serves students and communities throughout Oregon with a special focus on rural, regional and distance learning.

Programs are delivered on campus, online and onsite in La Grande and at 16 regional centers and include liberal arts, business, education and cooperative programs in



Representative Greg Smith (left) greets Eastern Oregon University President Bob Davies at reception in Heppner last week. -Photo by David Sykes

agriculture, nursing and dental hygiene.

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