

Council hears from 'concerned citizens' of Chase St.



Residents of Chase wonder when work will be completed on their sidewalks and other areas of the street

By David Sykes

The Heppner City Council Monday heard from a group of concerned citizens on Chase St. who are not satisfied with the work done during the recent street renovations around town.

Eight residents told the council their sidewalks are still gravel and work needs to still be completed on retaining walls and other areas. They wanted to know if and when the contractor who did the work was coming back.

As an example, Eric Cayce and his wife Rosa of 215 S Chase were at the meeting, and although their side of Chase did have its sidewalks completed, there was still work left to be done leading up from the street to his property. He said there is a 20-inch gap between the street and the edge of his property, making it a very steep gap and drop of that needs to be fixed. As with some of the other property owners on the street, Cayce said he appreciated the work, effort and money put in to make the town look better, but thinks that if the city paid for the work to be done, then the contractor should come back and finish it. He said he feels the contractor left town with the homeowners on that street "holding the bag." "And you don't have to be a civil engineer to see it wasn't done right," he added. "We are pleased with the attempt; the work is just unsatisfactory," he told the council.

Betty and Don Carter of 160 S Chase were at the meeting and said the contractor did not finish the sidewalks which are still gravel, and when it rains, water now pours into their yard. Don said he had to raise the gate by 4 inches since construction to get it open and shut. Betty says with the gravel out in front of their house, now she has to constantly go out and pull weeds where she didn't use to. "When is the job going to be finished or do we have to live with

what we got?" they wanted to know. "When is it going to be done? One year? Two years?"

Doug and Kelly Holland live at 240 S Chase, and they also said there was work not done correctly in front of their house, including the water meter box not being put in professionally. Kelly said she went out to the street during construction to talk to the contractor and ask questions about the substandard work, but "never got an answer."

Mike Hann, who lives at 265 S Chase, said the contractor left behind problems with his retaining wall and that there was also "substandard" work done.

Cayce reiterated he appreciated the work being done to make the city look better, but felt what people on the street were asking for was just to have the job done right. "We aren't asking for anything we shouldn't have," he said, reiterating what all the residents said, that the contractor needs to be held accountable.

Councilmember Corey Sweeney, who was filling in for absent Mayor Jim Kindle told the citizens the city would have to look into the situation, including reviewing the city's specifications and contract with the road construction company to see if they are out of compliance. The property owners were not given a timeline when the work might be done but were told the contractor is coming back to town in July to work on Jones and another street in Heppner.

Water and sewer rates going up

In other business the council approved an increase in sewer and water fees. Effective July 1 base sewer fees will go up \$2.99 per month from \$39.84 to \$42.83. Water will go up \$1.93 from \$25.78 to \$27.71. There will also be automatic increases over the next five years based on the Consumer Price Index, or CPI which measures inflation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Court Security	25,580	89,351	87,500
FTE	-	-	-
Echo Wind Fees	76,333	101,885	101,885
FTE	-	-	-
Shepherds Flat Fees	1,812,887	1,672,351	1,661,000
FTE	-	-	-
FTA Grant Fund	96,603	546,036	1,054,777
FTE	1.0	1.0	1.0
Community Corrections	631,049	942,006	840,100
FTE	3.0	3.0	5.0
PGE Carty	2,437,303	2,450,694	3,503,500
FTE	-	-	-
Sheriff Reserve	5,496	23,760	19,000
FTE	-	-	-
Wheatridge Wind	-	2,073,720	2,430,000
FTE	-	-	-
Orchard Wind	-	141,619	154,850
FTE	-	-	-
Resiliency Fund	1,341,805	13,254,518	9,400,000
FTE	-	-	-
Non-Departmental / Non-Program	2,956,382	7,241,387	11,186,548
FTE	-	-	-
Not Allocated to Organizational Unit	25,687,434	-	-
FTE	-	-	-
Total Requirements	66,023,299	78,278,048	83,674,523
Total FTE	123.0	123.0	134.2

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *
For Fiscal Year 2022-23, management and staff will continue to monitor operations in response to current economic conditions. Costs are rising quickly due to inflation, gas prices, supply shortages, and increases in personnel costs. Property taxes collections continue to increase due to growth in Morrow County.

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Approved
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit 4.1347 per \$1,000)	4.13470	4.13470	4.13470
Local Option Levy	-	-	-
Levy For General Obligation Bonds	-	-	-

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS		
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1.	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds	-	-
Other Bonds	6,860,000	-
Other Borrowings - Capital Leases	236,001	-
Other Borrowings - Construction Loan	354,180	-
Total	7,450,181	-

150-504-073-2 (Rev. 11-11) Published June 15, 2022 Affidavit

School district receives \$2 million gift

The Morrow County School District, at their Monday night meeting in Irrigon, announced that the district has received over \$2 million as a gift from Amazon. The \$2,545,582.79 gift, donated to the district through the Morrow Education Foundation, was especially good news, since voters rejected the district's bid to remodel all the schools in the district.

Outgoing long-time superintendent and educator Dirk Dirksen, commented on what he termed "a fantastic year." Dirksen has worked for the district for 41 years as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal and superintendent. (See related story in this week's Gazette.)

Also at the meeting, the MCSO Board approved anticipated revenues of \$29,040,748 for the 2021-22 year with \$28,715,639 in anticipated expenditures, with \$325,109 over expenditures, a \$4,508,248 beginning fund balance and a \$4,833,357 projected ending fund balance.

In other business, the board:

- approved changes to the 2022-23 licensed (teaching) salary schedule with a seven percent cost-of-living increase, ranging from Bachelor of Arts/sciences with zero credits (\$273 per day)- \$47,798 to Master of Arts/sciences plus 45 credits- (\$491 per day)-\$85,857.

- approved changes in longevity pay to the following: beginning of 10th year-14th year-\$333; 15th - 19th-\$531; 20th year-24th year-\$731; 25th year-29th year-\$929; 30th year & each year thereafter-\$1,131.

- approved changes to the extra duty pay schedule from step zero, A to F, starting at \$4,506, to step four, A-F, ending at \$2,056

(SPED coordinator, Talent-ed and Gifted coordinator, music/band, DART Ell site coordinator, plus Outdoor Education Advisors-\$375/year; ELL/ESOL endorsement-\$1,605 over a three-year period; Spanish speaker-\$1,605 over a three-year period.

- approved changes to the 2022-23 coaches' salaries as follows (depending on steps zero through four and position): high school athletic director: \$4,770 to \$5,782; high school head coaches-\$4,483 to \$5,636; high school JV coaches-\$3,469-\$4,047; high school third assistant or "C-team"-\$2,312-\$2,890; junior high athletic director-\$2,312-\$2,890; junior high head coach-\$1,581 to \$2,345; junior high assistant coach-\$1,192-\$1,669. In addition to an "excessive mileage stipend" from \$100 to \$800.

- accepted and appropriated the following unanticipated revenues: Irrigon Elementary-\$120.65 Community Impact Fund, ASB, from Lamb Weston-Benevity; IJSHS-\$1,750 from the Boardman Kiwanis Club; RJSHS-\$1,750 from the Boardman Kiwanis Club; MCSO-\$2,545,582.79 from Amazon.

- approved a revised MCSO 2022-23 school calendar with the first day of school for teachers Monday, August 22 with a district wide in-service day; the first day of school for students Monday, August 29; no school on Friday, September 2- Monday, September 5 for the Labor Day holiday; no school on Fridays, Sept. 16, Sept. 30, October 21, November 11 for Veteran's Day holiday; Thursday and Friday Nov. 24-25 Thanksgiving; Friday December 9, 16; Monday Dec. 19-30, winter break.

- received the following enrollment figures for June: A.C. Houghton Elementary, Irrigon-216; Sam Boardman Elementary, Boardman-346; Heppner Elementary-185; Irrigon Elementary-192; Windy River Elementary, Board-

man-250; Heppner Jr./Sr. High School-160; Irrigon Jr./Sr. High School-365; Riverside Jr./Sr. High School, Boardman-484; Morrow Education Center, Irrigon-77; Total-2,275.

- received the following report of enrollment by community: Boardman, plus 35, from 1,045 in June 2021 to 1,080 in June 2022; Heppner, plus 34, from 311 in June 2021 to 345 in June 2022; Irrigon, minus 11, from 784 to 773; Morrow Ed. Center, minus 58, from 135 to 77; district totals, steady over two years at 2,275.

- approved the list of fall coaches recommended to rehire for 2022-23: (Heppner Jr./Sr. High listed only) Greg Grant-athletic director, head football; Aymee Wilson-1/2 time head cheerleading coach, fall HJSHS; Les Payne, assistant football coach; Robert Wilson, assistant high school football; Mindy Wilson, head high school volleyball; Russ Nichols, head high school cross country; Antonia Nichols, assistant high school cross country; Chad Doherty, junior high head football; Joe Armato, junior high assistant football; Petra Payne, junior high head volleyball; Darcee Mitchell, junior high assistant volleyball.

- approved the following employment action for June: Resignations-Jason Dunten, IJSHS high school boys' wrestling coach; Crystal Kirk, RJSHS social studies teacher; Dan Locey, IJSHS junior high assistant football coach; Jordan Mittdelsdorf, RJSHS head high school softball coach; Edith Velasco, WRE/RJSHS fourth grade teacher and junior high assistant track and junior high assistant volleyball coach; Sarah Wagoner, Irrigon Elementary behavior tech, and Stacey Wainwright, Title I teacher.

- approved the following employment, promotions and transfers: Jason Dunten, IJSHS vice principal; July Hamilton, SBE K-3 Title 1 teacher; Jolene O'Neal, RJSHS Language

Arts teacher; Daniel Puer-ta, RJSHS social studies teacher; Eddy Ramos Bautista, RJSHS humanities teacher; Charly Sturgeon, MEC K-5 online/hybrid teacher; Megan Wilson, RN, MCSO nurse; Mark Wyant-IJSHS health and physical ed teacher.

- approved the following extra duty contracts: Judit Casteneda, RJSHS high school assistant cheer coach; Myka Davis, IJSHS junior high head volleyball coach; Dan Locey, IJSHS high school assistant volleyball coach; Darcee Mitchell, HJSHS junior high assistant volleyball coach; Nathaniel Verley, IJSHS high school assistant football coach; and Edith Velasco, IJSHS high school assistant girls' soccer coach.

- approved the following organizational details for the district: Matt Combe, superintendent/clerk, custodian of funds, facsimile signatures-checks, budget officer, designate facsimile signatures-checks; Marie Shimer, director of educational services; Gabriel Hansen, deputy clerk/business manager, custodian of funds, designate facsimile signatures-checks; Erin Stocker, human resources executive director; Barbara Phillips, human resources assistant/executive secretary; Heppner Gazette-Times and East Oregonian-newspapers of record; OSBA/PACE-district legal counsel; Nancy Snider, Wheatland Insurance-insurance agent of record; depositories for district funds-State Investment Pool, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Banner Bank, Wells Fargo, U.S. National Bank, Bank of New York; auditors for 2022-23-Dickey and Tremper, Pendleton.

- authorized the Morrow County Treasurer to invest district funds.

- approved a resolution for a committed fund balance.

- approved the following board calendar: July 2022-no meeting; August 8 work session and board meeting-Morrow Education Center, Irrigon; September 12-Heppner Elementary; October 10-RJSHS; November 14-Irrigon Elementary; December 12-SBE; January 9-work session and board meeting, North District Office, MEC; Feb. 13-HJSHS; March 13-ACH; April 10-WRE; May 9, Tuesday-IJSHS; June 121-South District Office, HES.

Father's Day Specials

10% off Georgia Boots

10% off Wrangler Jeans

20% off Wrangler Shirts

- Nursery Sale -

20% off all Weeks Roses

Morrow County Grain Growers Green Feed & Seed
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Engagement?

Wedding?

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