

Public Hearing on Budget for District 549C Friday

A public hearing will be held next Friday, March 15, on a proposed budget totaling \$5,061,057.07 for School District 549C for next year.

The hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Hedrick Junior High school speech room. The hearing time and location have been changed from previous years in an effort to provide a more opportune time and place for district patrons to attend the hearing. Previously, the hearings had been held in the board room at the administration building late in the afternoon.

An election on the amount of the budget exceeding the 6 per cent limitation will be held between 2 and 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 3.

What Budget Includes
The \$5 million budget includes the general fund, which totals \$4,683,457, and the bond interest and redemption fund, which totals \$377,600.07.

The total budget represents an increase of \$427,278.75 more than this year's \$4,633,778.32 budgeted for general operation and bond interest and redemption fund.

The increase, the budget committee noted, is equal to an estimated 11.3 mills, based on estimated receipts and available cash balances and taking into consideration possible state and county funds.

However, if the assessed valuation should increase more than estimated, and additional state and county funds are made available, the millage increase could be reduced from the estimated figure by 4 to 7 mills, the committee pointed out.

Assessed Valuation Base
The assessed millage is based on an assessed valuation of \$52 million, an increase of \$363,613 over the

valuation this year. The actual assessed valuation will not be known until later, and could be more than what is estimated.

The increase also could be reduced by an increase in state and county contributions. Just what these totals will be will not be known until the state legislature and county court determine what each will provide to help offset the property tax load.

Local property taxes carry the load of financing education, and in recent years have increased to a point where school administrators, school boards, and others interested in reducing property taxes are urging additional support from state sources. Several bills concerning financial assistance to public school districts are now being considered by the legislature.

The budget committee has estimated that unless state support is increased, the amount which can be expected from state sources will equal about 30 per cent of the district's operating costs next year.

Most of Education Cost
Federal revenue sources will bring in an estimated 1 1/2 per cent of the total school operating costs. About 70 per cent of the cost of education is supported through local means, either the property tax, or through county funds utilizing the O and C monies.

The district's general fund budget of \$4,683,457 for next year is an increase of \$429,165 more than this year's general fund. Of that total, \$3,361,976, or 71.8 per cent, will go for instruction; \$345,

160, or 7.4 per cent, for operation of plant; \$260,755, or 5.6 per cent, for fixed charges; \$234,639, or 5 per cent, for maintenance of plant; \$211,105, or 4.5 per cent, for capital outlay; \$81,987, or 1.8 per cent, for administration; \$119,535, or 2.6 per cent, for pupil transportation; \$48,300, or .9 per cent, for auxiliary agencies and other expenses; and \$20,000, or .4 per cent, for emergency fund.

Six factors were noted by the budget committee as contributing to the increase in general fund expenditures. They are:

1. The increase in the number of students. School administrators estimate there will be 9,050 students in the district's schools next year, an increase of more than 300 over this year. About twice as many first grade students enroll each year as the district has graduating seniors. This year's senior class totals 454; there are 816 first graders.

2. An increase in the number of teachers. The district estimates that next year, it will be necessary to add 14 teachers to the staff to help relieve excessive overloading and to staff new classrooms.

3. Salary increases for teachers. The teachers' salary schedule was revised this year to bring it in line with comparable districts in Oregon. Budget committee members pointed out that this will attract and hold more competent teachers.

4. The increase in cost of supplies, equipment and materials. School administrators

noted that these items have increased an average of 5 to 8 per cent.

5. Capital outlay increase. Funds are included in the proposed budget for five permanent elementary classrooms and six temporary teacher stations at Medford High school to take care of anticipated enrollment increases. The budget committee, in including these building needs in the budget, believed it the most practical and advisable means of providing needed classrooms.

6. Reduction of state aid. School administrators noted that there has been a continued reduction of state aid for schools, and unless the state adopts a more realistic policy of increasing state aid to match inflationary trends, local property has to assume the increased costs of financing education.

The budget committee pointed out that it recognizes that "good schools cost more than poor schools; however, surprisingly little more. The evidence is conclusive that states and school districts which invest the most money in education have the best

school programs. A school district is often evaluated as to its record of keeping students in school to high school graduation, by its academic achievement records, and through its vocational preparation results."

Budget committee members said the proposed budget may be considered an austere one, pointing out that "each proposed expenditure has been carefully examined in the perspective of its relationship to the over-all educational objectives of the district and in terms of wise economy."

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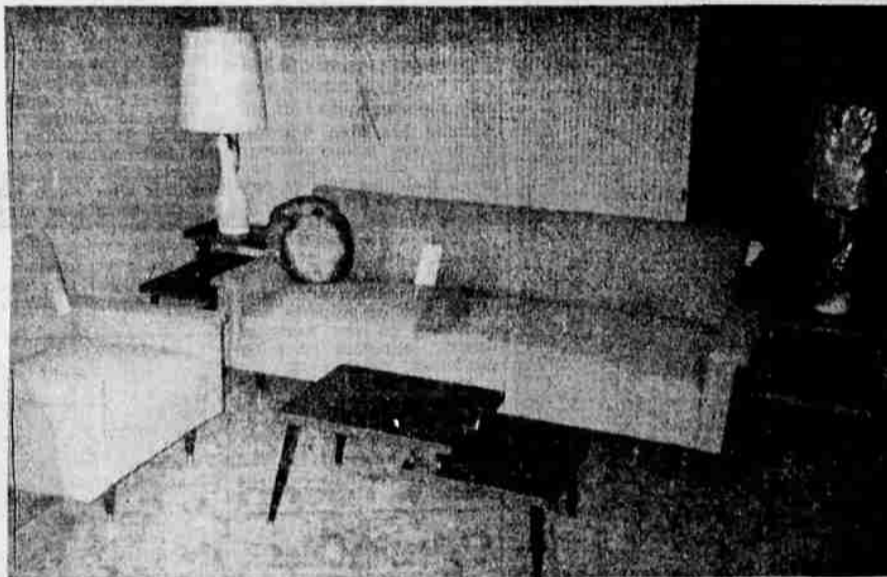
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Excess Social Security Taxes May Be Refunded

If a person has worked for two employers during 1962, he may be entitled to have excess social security taxes paid refunded, according to Edward B. Jacobson, district manager of the Social Security office in Medford.

In 1962, he said, "you as an employee had 3 1/2 per cent of your earnings up to the first \$4,800 a year deducted from your wages by your employer. Your W-2 Form should show no more than \$150 deducted from your wages in the FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) box even if you were paid more than \$4,800, the maximum creditable for social security."

Jacobson pointed out that if a person worked for two or more employers during the year, and the amounts in the FICA boxes on all of his W-2 Forms add up to more than \$150, the person has some money coming back.

The tax rate for a self-employed person for 1962 was 4.7 per cent of the first \$4,800 of self-employment earnings. Even if, because of a large number of dependents and small earnings, the person does not owe any income tax, a self-employment social security tax must be paid and a return filed if the net earnings exceed \$400 for the year.

Self-employed individuals should give complete answers to all of the questions on Schedule C-3 and the Schedule SE attached to the bottom of Schedule C-3, Jacobson said.

The district director of Internal Revenue detaches the bottom portion after he determines that a correct tax payment has been made and sends it to the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, Md.

"There," Jacobson said, "it becomes a permanent part of your social security earnings account." It will one day be important in fixing the size of the benefit checks under social security.

Ashland Businesses Improving Property

Ashland — Several Ashland businesses are remodeling and improving their property and others are moving to new locations.

Conklin Fuel company recently purchased the building at 111 Oak st., which is being remodeled to accommodate the company's downtown business office and a job printing establishment. Completion is set for mid-March.

Whitland Locke is in the process of equipping photographic studios in the Pioneer building on East Main st. adjacent to the city hall. Locke, who is a professional freelance photographer from southern California, said the studio will handle sound and motion picture production as well as portraiture.

Also in the remodeling process is the White House Market, 372 East Main st. The owner, Dale Kaegi, said that work will begin soon.

The Gruber Shoe Shop has moved from the Provost building on East Main st. to the Knox building on the Plaza.

Medford Youth Is Held on Charge

Hallett Howard Anderson, 19, of 611 West 10th st., Medford, is being held in the Jackson county jail on charges of entering a motor vehicle with intent to steal, sheriff's deputies have reported.

Deputies said the charge involves breaking a window of a car belonging to Brian Lee Jefferson, 33 South Second st., Ashland, Thursday.

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