

SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Accounting change adds \$1M to budget

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Seaside School District approved next school year's budget last Wednesday night. The total of all funds was \$960,000 higher than in the proposed budget, following an adjustment to account for principal and interest for pension bonds.

After reviewing the budget with the Northwest Regional Education Service District, the school district made the change with the goal of being as "as transparent as possible," Superintendent Susan Penrod said.

Total revenues and expenditures of \$49 million in the revised budget are about \$9 million lower than last year's

\$58.2 million requirements, a result of reduced construction expenditures with the completion of the new campus on Spruce Drive.

The budget includes revenues of about \$25 million from property taxes and an additional \$23 million from other sources, including federal and state grants designed to support transition back to full-time, on-site instruction, Penrod said.

Instructional costs for teachers and programs comprise the largest portion of the general fund. At about \$13.9 million, the general fund, the largest budget category, is slightly higher than last year's \$13.7 million.

Support services, including executive administration, transportation and operation

maintenance, are budgeted at \$8.5 million.

The amount budgeted for Public Employees Retirement System Debt Service in 2021-22 is \$960,000, of which \$670,000 is principal and the remainder interest.

Andre Schellhaas, assistant director of fiscal compliance for the Northwest Regional Education Service District, joined the meeting to explain a change in accounting methodology for the pension program. In previous years, when debt payments were due, they were deducted from the school district's cash account. Per guidelines from the Government Accounting Standards Board, debt service will now be accounted for in a separate fund.

The retirement fund is counted twice in the budget amendment, recognizing the accumulation of resources to pay the bond debt by a charge against a payroll fund and also a special revenue fund. It also recognizes the payment of bond principal and interest in a debt service fund in accordance with generally accepted practices and Oregon law.

Despite the total budget increase, the new figures do not take away resources from other school district programs or services, Schellhaas said.

School board members unanimously voted to approve the revised budget. Adoption of the budget will be discussed at the school board's June 15 meeting.

Apartments: Planned for Holladay Drive

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two-bedroom and two one-bedroom apartments.

Building B will provide parking on the ground floor. The second and third floors will provide four one-bedroom apartments.

Building C will provide parking and two one-bedroom ground floor apartments. The second and third floors will provide three one-bedroom apartments.

River Run, Khan's second proposed apartment development on S. Holladay Drive, would be located between Riley's Restaurant and the Red Lion Inn & Suites. The proposed 59-unit development will replace existing commercial and residential buildings with three separate apartment buildings and one building dedicated to office space, a lobby and housekeeping.

River Run is "a beautiful location for an apartment," Khan said, sitting opposite the Necanicum River and close to downtown and restaurants.

Building A will face the water and will be a three-story building with nine



R.J. Marx

A commercial building in Seaside sits on one of the sites hotelier Masudur Khan aims to build apartments.

two-bedroom apartments on each floor for a total of 27 units.

Building B, along the south property line, will be three stories, with eight two-bedroom apartments on each floor for a total of 24 units.

A mixed-use building will be three stories

with two 1,200-square-foot office spaces on the ground floor. The second and third floors will provide four one-bedroom apartments on each floor for a total of eight units.

Seaside resident Patrick Roshay said notice for the meeting had come late. He said that the Necanicum

River could be damaged or wildlife threatened from the proposed development. Emergency vehicles would have limited access to the area. "It's a safety concern," he said. "In the plans themselves, there isn't a lot of wiggle room."

Scott Alderson, who lives in Sandpiper Village, echoed those concerns. "I don't think fire trucks are really great at 90 degree turns, which means we no longer have fire protection," he said.

He also expressed concerns about noise and traffic.

Planning commissioners unanimously approved both applications, setting conditions that the developer address parking spaces, exterior lighting, drainage and other issues.

Khan said he hopes to start the projects in September and complete them within a year.

With two developments and the recent purchase of a single-family home, Khan has shown his confidence in the future of S. Holladay Drive. "I like the river," he said. "I've always been a water guy."

Gearhart: Fire department gets largest share

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ged in \$10,000 in marijuana tax revenue.

Of budget appropriations, the fire department is budgeted for the largest share, almost \$628,000, including personnel, materials and services and capital outlay. The total police department budget is about \$517,000. The city's portion of state revenue sharing, \$35,300, was awarded after a public hearing. Combined, orga-

nizations sought a total of \$47,600.

Of expenditures, the administrative department comprises the largest portion of the proposed budget, at \$458,000, including personnel, materials and services, capital and outlay.

A new item, called "Community Care," budgeted at \$5,000, could be used by the police department to assist transients or help house people for a short period of time, usually one night.

Community Emergency Response Team funds, previously part of revenue sharing funds, are now budgeted at \$3,000 for the hazard mitigation fund.

The city has budgeted \$8,000 for a potential November firehouse bond vote, designed to cover some of the work that has to be done within for election materials and services should the city put the project to a vote.

The city also approved

\$203,000 to adopt the Gearhart Road District budget. Resolutions 958 and 959 officially adopted the budget. Resolutions 957 and 960 allowed the state revenue piece of the budget, and the officer salary piece of the budget.

"There are a few blanks to fill in, but we have all the information we need," City Attorney Peter Watts said of the new firehouse proposal. "We'll be proceeding to a final timeline."

Helicopters: Safety is Turel's priority

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property," he said. "The perfect fit is for the expansion in some way or another of the fun park. They've proven themselves by what they've done."

Turel said there are a lot of people interested in keeping the helicopter aloft. "But it takes somebody that is going to be here all the time, all the work that goes into this to keep it safe. And that's the big thing about this is keeping it safe. And that's what I want to finish this year up with is a very, very safe year."

Turel figures he's taken over 100,000 people flying.

"So many people have their first helicopter ride here," he said. "They view the beautiful colors, see the contrast of the mountain

range and the coast. If the weather changes, one day looks different than another day. I especially get delight out of the first flight of the day. And so I just feel very blessed. And I hope that I've been able to be somewhat of a goodwill ambassador for the city of Seaside and the whole area."

During the season, Seaside Helicopters opens at 11 a.m. Flights are first-come, first-served; reservations are not accepted.

For visitors coming from a distance, "Have a plan B," Turel said, as flights are liable to cancellation for weather conditions, fatigue, or if he thinks something isn't right about the helicopter.

"Everybody seems to understand, he said. "As a matter of fact, they thank me for being careful."

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