



Seaside School District

Panoramic view from the high school and middle school campus.

Schools: General fund exceeds \$25 million

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values of equitable, safe learning environments, an engaging well-rounded education, and a focus on collective wellness and community partnerships,” Penrod said.

Financial stability has allowed the district to add field trip funding, a portable stage for performing arts and additional science, technology, engineering, arts and a mathematics position at the elementary school, she said. “These additions are directly tied to our strategic plan to offer real world experiences for our students as they pursue excellence as passionate, lifelong learners.”

The general fund is the district’s primary operating fund and accounts for all revenues and expenditures, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. Expenditure categories include salaries, associated payroll costs, purchased services, supplies and materials, capital outlay and other general expenses.

The budget shows a general fund of \$25.2 million, slightly higher than last year’s \$24.5 million general fund resources. The largest portion of the general fund is salaries, at \$11.76 million, up from last year’s \$10.9 million. Staff salaries and associated payroll costs of \$18.25 million are slightly higher than last year’s \$18.06 million. Salaries and payroll costs make up 73% of expenditures.

The total staff salaries and associated payroll costs are \$22.4 million across all funds for 2022-23.

Total debt service is \$6.87 million, including \$5.3 million for principal and interest 2017 general

obligation bond to build the new campus, part of the \$99.7 million construction project passed by voters to relocate schools in the southeast hills. The remaining portion includes \$568,000 on the full faith credit obligation bond in 2020 designed to meet additional construction costs and \$996,000 in principal and interest payments for the public employees retirement system unfunded actuarial liability debt service.

The district participated in the Oregon School Board Association Pension bond pool for the purpose of funding the district’s allocated portion of the system’s unfunded actuarial liability, business manager Toni Vandershule said.

Of school district revenue, \$16.7 million is raised from taxes, with additional funds from the county, state and federal sources, along with state managed county timber.

COVID relief funds are expected to end the year after this proposed budget. The textbook curriculum budget designates more than \$700,000 between all schools.

The board of directors did not ask for any revisions in the first budget meeting, Vandershule said.

The district meets on Tuesday as the target date for the budget committee’s approval of the budget. At the June meeting, the board is expected to adopt the budget, to make the appropriations and to declare the tax levy.

Board chairman Brian Taylor said he was happy with the budget. “I feel we have allocated money to best serve the needs of our students,” he said.

Gearhart budget: City awaits results of bond vote

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The proposed budget presents a financial operations plan that strives to maintain or improve current service levels, Hill wrote in her budget message. “It is a financial pathway to supporting our community because the City Council, staff and residents are passionate about preserving the integrity of Gearhart.”

The city will see significant reductions in building inspector and plumbing inspector fees. The city is anticipating a decrease in permits due to decreased property inventory and increased costs of construction materials. In 2021-22, the city budgeted \$211,000 for the building inspector, reduced to \$130,000 in the new budget. The plumbing inspector budget went from \$15,000 to \$10,000.

The water budget features \$1.38 million in operating expenses, about \$30,000 more than the 2021-22 level.

Police expenditures for 2022-23 are about \$550,000, up from \$517,000 in 2021-22, attributable to increases in the public employee retirement system from \$38,000 to more than \$51,000, and jumps in health, life and disability insurance from \$70,000 to \$85,000.

Fire department costs jumped from \$628,000 in 2021-22 to almost \$747,000 in 2022-23. The fire department’s personnel costs jumped from \$321,557 in 2021-22 to almost \$440,000 in the upcoming budget, coming with increases to health, retirement costs and life and disability insurance.

Another increase in personnel services is the mobilization of firefighters for in-state and out-of-state wildland fire support, Hill said. It is hard to gauge depending upon the type of fire season.

The city has budgeted \$184,500 from mobilization as Gearhart firefighters respond to in-state and out-of-state wildfires. This year the city has received more than \$100,000 in revenue from Gearhart’s participation. During the burn season of 2020-2021, the city received almost \$200,000 to

Fire, police station bond to be decided; ballots due Tuesday

Seaside Signal

On Tuesday when the polls close at 8 p.m., Gearhart voters will see the results of Measure 4-213 to fund a new fire and police station.

The measure would authorize \$14.5 million in bond financing for a fire and police station on 2 acres off Highlands Lane along U.S. Highway 101. The new station would replace the aging firehouse on Pacific Way.

The city must receive approval from the state Department of Land Conservation and Development to bring the land into the city’s urban growth boundary. As part

of a land transfer with the city, developers of The Cottages at Gearhart LLC would transfer two lots for a firehouse and park and benefit from the rezoning of a planned residential subdivision at a higher density.

If the bond measure is approved, the money would be used for capital construction costs to build, equip and furnish the 13,000-square-foot station.

The city estimates the bonds would cost property owners \$1.213 per \$1,000 assessed value per year for up to 20 years. On a home with an assessed value of \$100,000, the levy for the fire and police station would be \$121 a

per year. On a property with an assessed value of \$388,000, the levy would be \$470 per year; with an assessed value of \$500,000, slightly more than \$600 per year.

Only voters living in voting Precinct 116, which covers the Gearhart city limits, will find the measure on their ballots.

Voters outside the city limits, including those in the Gearhart urban growth area, are not eligible to vote on the measure.

If the measure passes, taxes to fund the bond would be assessed only on property owners within the Gearhart city limits.

Ballots for the May 17 election must be post-marked by Election Day.

offset their efforts.

The fire department has budgeted \$20,000 for the student intern program, up from last year’s \$9,500. Fire department overtime pay is budgeted at \$25,000, about a quarter more than last year’s figure of \$18,000.

The budget shows a newly created full-time administrative assistant which provides support to the building, municipal court and planning departments.

Costs for consultants, including the planning consultant, at \$75,000 annually, and city attorney, \$37,500 remain steady with last year’s rate. The city administrator will receive just over \$99,000, about a 5% increase from last year. Raises for other city employees show similar increases.

A beginning fund balance of almost \$564,000 and property tax collections of \$631,000 make up the largest portion of the city’s

resources. Building permits bring in about \$207,000, and the city has budgeted \$103,000 from the American Rescue Plan.

The beginning fund balances for the general fund, water operating fund and Gearhart Road District will have a portion of the American Rescue Plan included in them, a result of revenues received this fiscal year that will not be spent by June 30. Expenditures represent the total awarded amount of more than \$360,000.

Although last year the city received about \$7,200 from marijuana tax, the city budgeted \$70,000 in the new budget. The jump comes as the local marijuana vendor was paying the local tax to the state instead of to Gearhart, Hill said.

With tourism returning after the pandemic, the city also expects an increase of transient room tax, from \$380,000 to \$450,000.

The Budget Committee approved \$38,300 out of more than \$40,500 in grant requests. Last year, the city delivered \$35,300 in state revenue sharing funds to nonprofits.

Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers, which addresses homeless issues, will receive \$5,000, as will the South County Food Bank. The Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank received \$3,800, with local arts and community organizations receiving the remainder.

After 3 hours and 15 minutes, the budget committee completed their review and motioned to approve the budget, approving the amended budget for \$23.5 million. There was no public comment.

A budget hearing at the regular June 1 City Council is scheduled to enact the budget as approved by the committee.



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