

Mueller will chair new district

Norman Mueller, Mist, was elected chairperson of the newly-formed Columbia County Emergency Communications District at the organization's first meeting on November 30.

IrmaDawn Brownlow will fill the position of vice-chairperson, Addison "Bud" Harrison was elected secretary and William Goodwin, treasurer. The fifth member of the board is Regina Cullison.

Faced with a tight schedule and many responsibilities before taking over emergency communications from the existing organization of user

agencies called C-COM, the board first appointed a budget committee and a part-time director.

Named to the budget committee were Marv Meyers, Michael White, Mary Pat Smith, Jody Sandstrom and Virginia Sallee. Mike Derby was appointed part-time director.

In May, a tax base will be presented for the approval of the voters.

The board selected the third Tuesday of each month for their regular meetings. The meetings will be held at Rainier City Hall starting at

7:30 p.m.

Directors also decided to hold workshops in different communities in the county in order to give more residents opportunity to communicate directly with the board. No schedule has yet been adopted for the workshops.

Council members hear assignments

Vernonia Mayor Scott Sword eliminated two council committees by combining responsibilities for fire and ambulance services under one committee, and by combining streets along with water and sewer service under a Public Works committee.

The following committee appointments were made:

Fire/Ambulance - Mark Stevens, chairman, Wells Oviatt and Mario Leonetti;

Public Works - Wells Oviatt, chairman, Mario Leonetti and Mark Stevens;

Police - Scott Sword and Tony Hyde, co-chairmen, and Mark Stevens;

Parks - Mario Leonetti, chairman, Wells Oviatt and Tony Hyde;

Cemetery - Wells Oviatt; Planning Commission - Tony Hyde;

Airport - Scott Sword; C-Com - Mark Stevens.

Highway division will hold hearings on six year plan for Oregon roads and bridges

The Oregon Transportation Commission has given approval to a preliminary version of the state's Six-Year Highway Improvement Program for 1991-96. The program outlines about \$1.2 billion in highway projects statewide.

In February and March the Highway Division will hold a series of 18 public hearings across the state, to explain the program and receive citizen input. The final plan will

be drafted after the series of meetings. Comments at the meetings will be recorded and considered by the commission before final adoption of the program in July.

"The public meeting process is not to validate or rubber stamp the preliminary program," said Cam Gilmour, manager of the state Highway Division's Program Section. "It's really to get a reaction from the public to that program."

Gilmour said citizens who attend the hearings can see project by project in their area what is possible with existing funding. The proposal will cover projects from road resurfacing and widening to bridge replacement.

March 8 is the date of the public hearing in Columbia County. It will be held in the Lou Witt Room of St. Helens High School at 7 p.m.

County budget committee meets

Because Columbia County, like 25 other counties in Oregon, is lagging behind in property appraisals, the county budget committee met January 16 to review preliminary budgets for the county assessor's and tax collector's offices.

A new law, H.B. 2338, allows counties to apply for state funds to add personnel or equipment needed to bring the property appraisal process into a 6 year cycle, and budgets for assessment and taxation must accompany the application. County Assessor Tom Linhares presented his department's budget proposal. Tax Collector Jon Blair explained the taxation budget.

After some changes, the budgets were approved contingent on agreement with

data not yet available.

The budget committee is composed of three lay people - Chairperson Noni Andersen of Vernonia, Secretary Bonnie Evenson of Clatskanie, Bob Skeans of Rainier, and the three county commissioners - Jack Peterson, Sandy Dillard and Mike Sykes. Sykes is county Budget Officer.

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Seats may be reserved at the high school office, on a first-come first-served basis.

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