

Banks school board receives offer of major work by volunteers

Banks School Board Chair Anne Statton recognized several administrators for their work and welcomed new administrators to the district, at the board meeting June 11. Discussion of administrative salaries and construction of a wrestling facility occupied the balance of the meeting.

Retiring Junior High School Principal Ted Faro said that he "wouldn't have gone any other

place for 30 years." He also warned the high school administration that the junior high had promoted 92 students, the largest class ever. According to Faro the recently promoted class is "a bunch of really neat kids." Faro announced that

Banks would have summer school sessions in Math and Language Arts for students in grades 6, 7 and 8 beginning

June 18.

Also reporting a "largest" class, departing Banks High School Principal Jeff Smith said that 69 students participated in graduation exercises.

The ceremony had to be moved to the football stadium when the power went out. Jim

Foster, who was recently promoted to principal for next year, thanked retiring teacher Rita

Hofshier for her donation of \$1000 to the Freshman Connections program.

Grade School Principal Ester Lee said, "no one is more surprised than I am that I have to tender my resignation." She said it was a difficult decision to leave the district after so short a time but that family concerns forced the decision. In her final report to the board, Lee said that the Fine Arts Fair was a big success, Run for the Arts had raised \$2800 for elementary arts programs, and Outdoor School recently completed at Triple Creek Outdoor School was fun for all.

Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson's year-end report noted many accomplishments, including:

Elimination of the four-year debt, three years ahead of schedule.

Establishment of web-based learning options for high students beginning in 2001-2002.

Establishment and continuation of the Intel "Teach to the Future" program.

Improved district security.

Completion of five grant applications, ranging in size from \$14,000 - \$145,000, to secure outside funding.

The board voted unanimously to offer McGlasson a salary of \$96,000 for the 2001-2002 school year.

Volunteer labor will provide a new wrestling facility for the district, according to Ron Alley. Representing a group of community members, Alley said the facility would use the same plan as a facility recently completed in Seaside. The new building would rest on the footprint of and replace the tennis courts.

While designed for wrestling, the building would also be available for other physical education uses. Alley said that the group would like to begin construction as soon as possible.

The first phase would be to pour a slab foundation over the tennis courts, greatly improving the appearance and making fencing available for the proposed baseball field. Alley said that funding for the project has been secured to complete the first phase, but that additional funds would have to be raised to complete the building. The school district is being asked to provide water and sewer for the building upon completion.

The board approved the project and asked Alley to provide monthly updates.

In other business the board:

Agreed to review graduation requirements in April 2002 to determine if Technology Concepts should be added.

Accepted the resignation of Business Manager Tim Collier.

Banks council institutes water user fee, passes budget

Banks City Council held four public hearings and one additional session for public comment, without obtaining a response. The agenda included actions on the annexation of Banks Lumber Company property (reported elsewhere), the 2001-2002 budget, and the water utility user fee.

The council approved a one year water utility user fee of one cent per thousand gallons of water purchased from the city. The fee has been discussed for several months as a way to reduce the city's budget deficit. It will appear on water bills as a separate item beginning July 1 and will expire June 30, 2002. Depending on the amount of water used, water bills will increase from about \$4.00 to about \$10.00 per month. Councilors Ryan Birr, Terri Branstittre, Gary Coffey and Katie Murdoch approved the resolution. Councilor Tim Hardie opposed it and Councilor Judy Clifford remains on leave.

Following this action council was able to act on the city's budget. The proposed budget, as approved by the budget committee, included funds from the water utility user fee, but the council felt that one change was still necessary. They added \$70,000 to the general fund for land acquisition, with revenue to be obtained from timber sales. The city is exploring an opportunity to purchase land to protect the city's watershed.

Orlowski said that the budget shows continued fiscal conservation but will result in an unappropriated ending fund balance of \$ 44,983. Council approved the amended budget unanimously.

Orlowski thanked the community members who participated in developing the 2001-2002 budget. He said that he had never, in twelve years of experience with city government, seen this kind of participation. Budget Committee members also agreed to attend quarterly meetings to monitor the city's expenses.

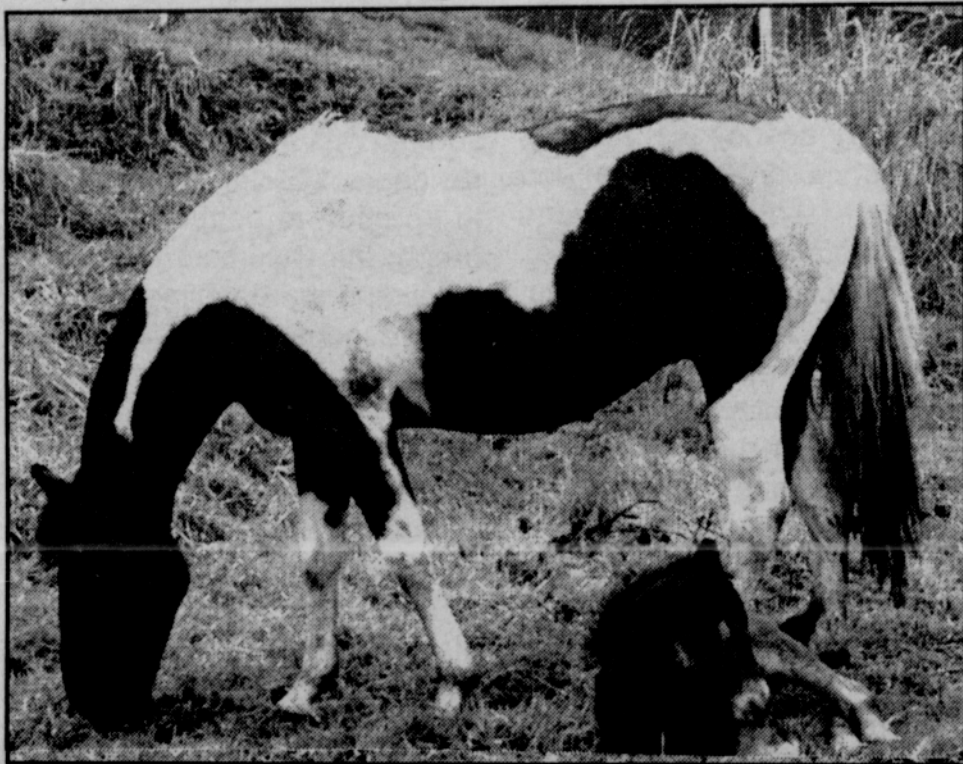
Darin Geldert and Gregory Thiel, of LDC Design Group, presented a report on water system development charges (SDCs), as requested by the council last month. The city may collect SDCs to cover the portion of infrastructure improvements that can be apportioned to population increases. The report projects a population increase of 374 people by the year 2025. The recommended increase to \$2,825.20 per dwelling unit was accepted by council.

City engineer Dale Merrell reported that all bids received for water system improvements were in excess of available funds. No award was made.

Michael Durham, of Base Camp Youth Ministries (BCYM), made a presentation to council about Jesus Jam '01, a Christian youth concert to be held July 7 at the Banks High

School football stadium. Since BCYM would like to make this the first of a series of annual events, Durham is getting comments and recommendations from concerned parties.

Banks requires a permit to use an amplified sound system. Durham said he would like council members or the police department to approve the sound level at a sound check before the event. Durham said that music would start at 6:00 p.m. and end at about 9:30 p.m. The event would end at 10:00 p.m. Durham also requested that a police officer attend the event. Orlowski said that an officer would be on duty, but that the city could not provide an officer to serve exclusively at the event. Councilors made several recommendations and encouraged Durham to apply for the needed permit.



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