

School Board elects new Chair

The Banks School Board of Directors held a special meeting July 23 to elect the board chair and vice-chair for the 2007-08 school year. Duane Lundsten will replace Doug Nordholm as chair, and Angi Duyck was elected to another year as vice-chair.

The board also approved the proposed budget for the facilities committee. The \$35,000 budget includes a population study, asbestos, engineering/environmental, construction/architectural and marketing/

bonding assessments. Lundsten explained that the budget was really a rough estimate and provides the board with an idea of where money will need to be spent. The committee will keep the board posted monthly as they incur expenses.

Lundsten also said that the committee has received feedback from administrators about space requirements for the immediate future. "The bottom line is that it's clear that there's a whole lot of space needed today," Lundsten said.

Kids and K-9s at Safety Fair, Aug. 4

For the third year in a row, the Washington County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit will hold trials for area police dogs and their handlers to compete against one another for bragging rights and a first place trophy.

The trials will run from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 4. There is no charge

for these events. Children are encouraged to attend.

Kids are also invited to attend the Kids and K-9 Safety Fair from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Kids can see McGruff, the Crime Dog, and win prizes. Activities will be at Century High School, 2000 SE Century Blvd. in Hillsboro!

Banks Council ready to hire Manager

At a special Banks City Council Meeting on July 30, Council convened to determine the new Banks City Manager.

Council President Pete Edison moved to offer the position to Jim Hough, who resides in Oregon. The contract would include \$2,000 in moving expenses, \$250 monthly for a car allowance, and a \$3,000 hiring bonus. The offer would also include a graduated severance package of two months pay, adding a month per year of

service, up to six months. Council was unanimous in approving the motion.

Because there were three acceptable candidates for the position, Councilor Craig Stewart commented, "offer the job if he takes it; he takes it. If he doesn't, we have a back up."

Mayor Teri Branstitre asked if there was a motion and Edison, moved to offer the position to Kent Wyatt, who resides in Washington, if the first choice choice doesn't work out. Included in the contract for Wyatt, would be a \$2,000 moving allowance, severance package of 2 months, and a \$1,000 signing bonus. According to Councilor Stewart, "benefits are linked with the candidate." The motion was approved.

Also on the agenda was the City's franchise contract with Verizon. The city receives a three percent tax at this time,

but can legally receive up to seven percent. If the contract goes to the higher amount, Verizon will pay the first four percent and bill the residents of Banks for the additional three percent.

(The city of North Plains is currently at seven percent and is trying to increase that amount outside the contract.)

Mayor Branstitre suggested bringing this topic back to a regularly scheduled council meeting. City Attorney Jim Lucas agreed, saying that he would be better prepared to discuss the topic in August.

Stewart inquired about having Verizon come and explain the contract to council. Councilor Brian Biehl agreed, "I would like to know what we are actually getting taxed on." The topic has been deferred to the regularly scheduled August 14 council meeting.

Banks Bar-B-Q, Truck & Tractor Pull coming up

Mark your calendars now for the 2007 Banks Truck & Tractor pull, Combine Demolition & Bar-B-Q on August 17, 18, and 19, at Sunset Park. Activities begin Friday, August 17, at 6:00 p.m. and continue through Sunday at about 5:30 p.m.

Watch for more information in the August 16 issue of *The Independent*.

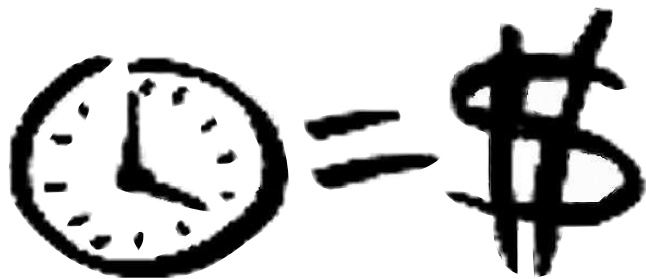
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