

Banks City Council told about changes to Hwy. 47 speed zones

Virginia Peterson was sworn in as Banks Municipal Court Judge at the February 10 Banks City Council meeting. Peterson's family attended the swearing-in ceremony. According to Peterson, she has been meeting with the city's staff in an effort to streamline the process when Banks Municipal Court holds its first court session on March 18. Upon leaving she thanked the city for this opportunity.

Deputy Jim Rue presented the police activity report, which included three arrests, 27 calls for service, 45 traffic stops and 11 citations in January.

Sgt. Bob Ray reported on the pipe bomb threat that occurred prior to school starting on February 6 at Banks Junior High School. According to Ray, a juvenile appears to be responsible. The bomb threat call came from the pay phone at Jim's Thriftway, Ray said, and images from a security camera are being looked at. Additionally, fingerprints were obtained from the payphone and interviews are underway. The sheriff's office followed their bomb threat protocol, which includes assistance of the Oregon State Police and Portland Bomb Squad. Highway 47 and the junior high were closed for about two hours while the area was searched.

City Manager Jim Hough presented the following information:

- The joint City Council/Planning Commission work session in January went well; there will be a future meeting on March 30. The first community review meeting will be held in the Banks Elementary Cafeteria on April 8.

- The first year of the indexed annual water rate adjustment showed that the 1.1 percent increase raised customers bills was a couple of cents.

- Clean Water Services (CWS) requested a letter of support from the City of Banks for the Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project and the Tualatin Project Title Transfer Project. CWS will be sending the letters of support to the entire congressional delegation. Hough presented a draft letter for council's review.

- The Oregon Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) has asked the city to comment on the soon-to-be-adopted Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Rich Weitzel from SWATCO suggested that the city provide comments. Hough had a draft letter for council review.

- Mayor John Kinsky gave a few highlights about Mayors Day in Salem, including that "...we have very knowledgeable representation at the state level. (Rep.) Deborah Boone knows the area; she could actually point out streets and addresses. She is very informed on Banks issues."

- Hough commented that "the stimulus package discussions are moving quickly at the County, Metro, and state levels; it remains to be seen if any of the stimulus gets to Banks."

- The Declaration of Aspirations that council adopted has been well received by most, if not all, of the people who have reviewed it.

- Hough expects that a decision will be made in April on the Reserves Coordinating Committee in identifying a potential



Judge Virginia Peterson is shown during her swearing-in ceremony at the Banks City Council meeting. The first day of court will be March 18.

candidate for the urban reserves, and a potential candidate for the rural reserves. The committee is working vigorously on identifying the potential candidates.

- Portland General Electric (PGE) will begin installing remote reading meters in Banks around April. The company hopes to complete the project by November.

- The speed zones on Highway 47 have been revised. The changes will be as follows: 500 feet north of Banks Road to 250 feet north of Oak Way will be designated as 25 mph excluding school zones, which will remain at 20 mph. From 250 feet

north of Oak Way to 100 feet south of Wilkesboro Road will be posted at 40 mph; from 100 feet south of Wilkesboro Road to one-tenth of a mile south of Dierickx Road will have a 50 mph designation.

After asking council to take note of the interior of city hall, Hough said that the rain damage to city hall was bad news. The good news was that insurance covered the entire claim, with the city paying only its

\$500 deductible. The work included roof repair, new insulation, paint, and lowering the ceiling panels. Hough credited City Recorder Jolynn Becker for cautioning the city not to redo anything before talking to the insurance company.

Ray Deeth, of the Banks Chamber of Commerce, read a proclamation that designated March 2009 as American Legion Month. The American Le-

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