

# “You have pretty good water system,” Banks City Council told

Starting the May 12 meeting of the Banks City Council, Mayor John Kinsky proclaimed the week of May 17-23 as Emergency Medical Services Week, noting the vital public service and the dedication of emergency medical services personnel, who provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and that access to quality emergency care dramatically improves survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury.

Gordon Munro of Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, submitted the draft Water Master Plan to council, noting that “really you have a pretty good water system.” According to Munro, the system is set for expansion in all directions; but the biggest issue is a 27 percent loss of water. In 2008, the system served 1,875 customers with a reliable capacity of 340 gpm. The city’s water sources are the large Green Mountain Spring, the small Green Mountain Spring (not used), and Behrman Well no. 1. The sources have adequate water to serve the existing population, including during high demand periods. Existing water storage should be ade-

quate for up to 15 years, but North Star Reservoir has visible deterioration. For water treatment, the slow sand filter operates adequately, and has adequate capacity for the available sources. Gas chlorine is used at both the North Star Reservoir and Behrman Well, Munro said, which is “okay, but most people are moving away from [it].”

Acceptance of the draft plan is contingent on the state of Oregon’s review. Consideration of final adoption is scheduled for the June 9, City Council meeting.

City Manager Jim Hough reported that the city is beginning the next phase of the sidewalk report project. Safe Sidewalks, Inc., conducted a demonstration of a new, inexpensive technology for making minor sidewalk repairs using a concrete cutting system, rather than grinding or complete replacement, and trimmed the sidewalk in front of city hall. The company has been contracted by the city to trim sidewalks near the library and Log Cabin Park.

The Washington County Reserves Coordinating Committee has endorsed scaling down

the urban reserves study area from 107,000 acres to 47,000 acres; they have not begun reviewing specific properties for recommendation to the Metro Reserves Steering Committee.

The city is continuing to poll surrounding property owners as to whether or not they want Washington County to designate their property as rural reserves. The property owners who have been contacted, so far, do not want to have their property taken out of development potential for the next 50 years.

The City has applied for a FEMA grant for roof repairs necessitated by the heavy snowstorm last December. Hough credited Levi Eckhardt of the Banks Fire Department for communicating this grant opportunity to the city.

The City is working on a grant from the 3M Corporation to upgrade and replace all of the traffic and street signs in Banks. If the grant is obtained, reflective material will be given to the city without charge; the city can use state gas tax funds to make and install the signs.

Council held a hearing on Banks proposed 2009-10 Fiscal Year budget. There was no

citizen opposition during the hearing. Council later approved the proposed budget.

Hough brought Council an agreement with Comcast of Tualatin Valley, Inc., to provide Public Communication Network (PCN) services for the city. The current agreement expires on June 30 and, according to Hough, the longer the lease, the more money the city can save. A Comcast representative pointed out that each time the city renews the agreement, the rate increases, and recommended that the agreement include a provision for terminating the services sooner if the MACC small cities grant were to stop. Council approval carried unanimously.

Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Crop, customers of the Banks Water Utility outside the City, disputed water charges for leakage in their water system. During routine water meter reading, Public Works Supervisor Fred Evers noticed that the meter indicated excessive water use, and notified the Crops, who immediately fixed the problem. The Crops’ water bill was \$5,589.55 but, under the city’s new policy to encourage water conservation, their amount was cut in half because they promptly remedied the problem. The Crops appealed for a further reduction of charges because of mitigating circumstances described as: 1) “Our catastrophic and hidden back flow valve failure was obviously not your run-of-the-mill leak.

This type of failure could have been identified by the Water Department’s REQUIRED meter reading. 2) The City of Banks Water Department made a conscious decision to entirely SKIP our meter reading for the month of December which is normally done on the 25th of every month. Our off-the-char meter reading was one full month LATE.” Council denied the appeal.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Shellman, who reside outside of the Banks City Limits, requested that the city allow the Banks Fire District to access and draw water from the city reservoir at the end of NW Gould Lane for firefighting purposes, in the event of a house or forest fire in that area. The Shellmans are not customers of the Banks Water Utility.

According to the City, it appears that the Shellmans are attempting to comply with county regulations to expand a home of 3,600 square feet in an unincorporated area, which requires either an installed sprinkler system or a holding pond on the property. Council, which previously decided to ban additional service outside the city limits, denied the request. This is “not something the city should be involved with,” Councilor Mark Gregg said, “the [fire] codes are clear.”

Council approved an agreement for service with GovOffice, to provide web-hosting service for the City of Banks.

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