

School Board finalizes bond proposal

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tions for a bond proposal on the November 2010 election.

Last fall the district hired Jeanne Magmer, of C&M Communications, and Rick Rainone, of Cornerstone Communications, as consultants to assist the district in determining if a bond should be proposed and if so, what improvements contained in the bond would have the greatest chance of passing. Rainone and Marsha Lata from C&M have regularly attended facilities planning committee meetings to provide information and assistance.

The board worked directly with Magmer to develop a survey carefully crafted to test voter support for specific project components. According to C&M materials, voter data indicate that the Banks School District has 1,947 voter households, and 65% (1258) of those households have listed phone numbers. In late April, Moore Information conducted a telephone survey of 181 randomly chosen respondents of a demographic group closely matching that of district voters.

C&M presented the survey and voter analysis to the board at their meeting May 10 and will continue to be closely involved

in providing the board with information throughout the bond process. Their analysis recommends that the district consider a bond proposal of \$25.2 million, including only those components that received more than 60% support in the random survey, for the best chance of receiving voter approval in November 2010. The components tested in the survey were drawn from the work and options presented by the facilities planning committee in March. Projects relating to safety, security and upgrades of heating, ventilation and electrical systems received the highest levels of support, along with projects that improve student learning in science and technology. The district would be able to capitalize on the cost saving realized through interest free loans by passing a bond in November.

Nevertheless, the report also urges the district to consider waiting until 2011 in order to launch a strategic community campaign to meet residents need for information. The survey analysis also concludes that a \$31.5 million bond measure, which would include all of the components, would likely fail at this time. Data show a

negative response to demolition of the district office building, conversion of an elementary field to a soccer field, and significant tax resistance, particularly among older voters.

The survey analysis concludes by outlining work the district needs to begin by providing information to staff, enabling them to answer questions about the bond proposal and provide voter information.

In other business:

The budget committee met and approved the 2010-2011 budget as proposed, at approximately \$13 million. The budget will be presented to the board for adoption in June.

The board approved administrative rules for charter schools, revised policies for graduation requirements, to require 24 credits, and regarding "Animals in the School".

The board also approved a resolution adopting a supplemental budget in order to receive an additional \$250,000 from the state school fund. According to business manager Simon Levear, the money was used to grow the ending fund balance in line with established board policy and to maintain programs.

Wash. Co. boards seek volunteers

The following Washington County boards are currently seeking applications for new members: Aging and Veteran Services Advisory Council Developmental Disabilities Council, Disability Services Advisory Committee, Fair Board, Fairgrounds Advisory Committee, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Metzger Park Advisory Board, West Slope Community Library Advisory Board

The application deadline is June 8, 2010 or when all vacancies are filled. Applications may be obtained by visiting the website or by calling 503-846-8685. Descriptions of all the boards can also be found on the website: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/CAO/Board->

[Commissions/index.cfm](http://www.co.washington.or.us/CAO/Board-Commissions/index.cfm).

Boards, committees, and commissions advise the Board of Commissioners on matters of interest to people who live and work in Washington County. Committees themselves do not pass ordinances or establish policy; their purpose is to study issues and make recommendations.

Commission members are volunteers appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. Members must be residents of Washington County. Serving on an appointed board or commission is a great way for Washington County residents to participate in decisions that affect them and to learn more about how local government works.

Deaths from fungus very rare

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lease definitive data. Preliminary numbers show that, since 2004, there have been about 50 people identified with the illness in Washington, Oregon and California and about 10 people have died.

The fungus has not been found to be transmitted from person to person. Symptoms include persistent cough, shortness of breath, headache, nau-

sea, meningitis, or pneumonia.

"If people are concerned about their symptoms, they should contact their health care provider right away," said Katrina Hedberg, M.D., M.P.H., Oregon public health epidemiologist.

The disease has also been identified in some animals such as goats, sheep, dogs, cats, ferrets, elk, horses, alpacas and porpoises.

Council agrees enforce the sign code

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Washington County Sheriff's Office, informed the city that the sheriff's office offers customized Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch, and Church Watch programs, and trains participants in the program. Because Banks contracts with the Washington County Sheriff's Office, these services are available. Schnoor can be contacted by e-mail: darlene_schnoor@co.washington.co.us.

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Pat Chertude commented that April was a very slow month. There were 20 traffic stops resulting in 13 citations, plus 75 calls for service and two arrests. Chertude concluded by saying that "May has been a much busier month."

City Manager Jim Hough reported the following:

- The hedge around the Ride Connection Bus Stop has been installed;

- The city is still working on getting a grant to pay for the in-

stallation of an electric vehicle charging station at the Banks-Vernonia Trailhead parking area.

- The citizens of Banks will receive a thermal expansion explanation in their water bills this month. A first reading of an ordinance will be presented at the June 8 City Council meeting; the ordinance will specify the plumbing permit needed for backflow and thermal expansion devices. According to Hough, this is in the plumbing code, however, as Water Authority, the city should be specific so the Washington County plumbing inspector has good direction on the city's behalf.

- At a prior meeting, the mayor requested enforcement of the sign code. A friendly reminder flyer will be included in water bills to let citizens know that the City of Banks Code prohibits signs in the public right away. The city would like to try a six-month experiment enforcing the code, and pro-

poses that, for a temporary sign violation, the City Recorder will call the violator, if identifiable, notifying them that the sign must be removed from the public right away; in case of non-compliance, the sign will be removed within a day. Yard sale, for rent, free puppies, etc. signs can become a distraction to drivers and in some cases impair a driver's line of vision. The city appreciates citizen cooperation.

- The library and public works buildings' signs have been installed.

A public hearing was held for the fiscal year 2010-2011 operating budget and capitol improvement plan. There were no expressed objections, and the hearing was closed. Council will convene At their regular June meeting, Council will discuss any final changes and adopt the budget.

The next city council meeting will be held on June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Banks City Hall.

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