

Home Rule Charter Committee To Be Named; Nine to Serve

The Board of Commissioners of Columbia County has filed a resolution with the county clerk's office for the appointment of members to a Columbia County Home Rule Charter Committee under an Oregon statute which provides for the formation of a charter committee.

The nine-member committee will study a new form of government for Columbia County, with the group to be made up of individuals from throughout the county, appointed by commissioners, state representatives and the state senator.

According to the Board of Commissioners, with the county growing and developing, and with the continually increasing demands being placed on government services, they deemed it feasible to have a committee study the needs of the government for the foreseeable future.

After filing the resolution, notice was sent out to participants

in the appointment process that they are to begin selecting members for the committee.

Commissioners N.W. Barmeier, Jack Minkoff, and Jay Ahlborn are to appoint, collectively, four members of the committee; State Representatives, Dick Magruder and George F. Cole, and State Senator William Holmstrom will appoint four additional members. A majority of at least five of the eight members of the committee will then appoint an additional member to complete the charter committee.

The committee is to determine what type of government would be best for Columbia County. In ascertaining this, they are to study whether or not a charter would be a better form of government, conduct hearings, make investigations and take testimony.

It will be the duty of the newly formed charter committee to study and consider all previous suggestions including charter-type governments in other areas, and to make a determination as to whether or not one form—or a modification of one of the forms—would be better suited to Columbia County.

If the committee should so decide, then they would have the power to place the measure on the ballot for the residents of Columbia County to make the final decision.

Word was received Wednesday that the earlier appointment of Representative George Cole to the committee had been rescinded. Explains County Clerk Roy Nelson:

"I wasn't aware of and I suppose he didn't think of the apparent fact that because of the Secretary of States redistricting the State of Oregon you are running to represent legislative district two which includes a portion of Columbia County, but you do not yet represent your new district areas until taking office for a new term in January.

"I have just talked with Jack Thompson, Assistant Secretary of State, concerning this and he has advised me that at present you would not be eligible to appoint members to the Columbia County Home Rule Charter Committee. The only officials presently eligible to make appointments would be State Representative Dick Magruder and State Senator Bill Holmstrom. They would be the only two eligible to appoint the four members to the Columbia County Home Rule Charter Committee by our State Legislators."

City Filings Increase As Line Nears

As of Wednesday morning, only two petitions had been filed by majority candidates, three had filed for the two vacating council posts, and a single petition was in for the treasurer's post.

Those filing to date, reports Recorder Bill Nelson, include:

Mayor: Pat Goodman, Sherman Fisher

Council: Joe Batty, C.E. "Ed" Miller, Ralph Keasey

Treasurer: Peggy Brunson

Fisher, Keasey and Mrs. Brunson all are incumbents seeking reelection. Miller is a former councilman making a bid for return to that post, and Mrs. Goodman and Batty are the newcomers on the political scene in Vernonia.

Several other petitions have been taken out, Nelson states, but had not yet been filed by press time.

Deadline for candidates to file petitions with the recorder—bearing the required minimum of 22 qualified signatures—is today, Thursday, October 5, 5 p.m.

Voter Deadline This Saturday

Only one prospective voter in the Vernonia area took advantage last Saturday of the specially scheduled open hours at City Hall by Recorder/Registrar Bill Nelson.

Nelson reports that he waited out the four hours that morning, but had only the one person in to register to vote. He adds, however, that a number of persons have registered this week.

This Saturday, October 7, is the final day that persons may register—or re-register if they have moved, or had a change of name or address—for the November 7 General Election.

Nelson will be available at City Hall Saturday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 noon for persons wishing to validate their franchise.

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THURSDAY, OCT. 5, 1972



ALBERTO ALLEGRE, Vernonia High's foreign exchange student, is surrounded by host family on evening of his first day in new home. Alberto, via photographs, explains how—in a seemingly suicidal manner of bulldozing steers by their tails—he came to

be hurt, delaying his arrival in the United States. Host father Bill Nelson is at left, then on Alberto's right are Carol, and Mrs. Nelson. (Story Timberline page.)

Council, Owner Come to Agreement

Prior to the opening of the regular City Council session Monday evening, the city officials adopted a supplemental budget, transferring water department funds. No one was present—outside of council members—for the hearing.

Mayor Sherman Fisher presided over the session, with all councilmen, Dave Banta, Derl Roberts, Lucille Tomlin and Ralph Keasey, as well as Recorder Bill Nelson, and Attorney Robert Vagt, present.

From the floor, first order of business, came a request by Mrs. Ralph McKee for city aid in alleviating problems of water standing along Knott Street. The matter was referred to the street department for study.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wells, and J.D. Price and his attorney, Ralph Ballinger, next were given the floor for discussion of easements through their properties on Riverside Drive for the new sewer line from the East Vernonia district.

Apparently all problems were resolved with the attorneys, property owners and council coming to agreement on terms of the easements, and work was to commence on the line immediately.

The Wells couple was advised that plans were to stay a safe distance from trees on their property about which they felt concern, and Price's requests regarding present and future sewer hook-ups on his property were met.

In addition to a change of line location, Price had asked for the following: A fee of \$700 each for future hook-ups; \$1,000 for easement through his property; no assessment at this time; an agreement be drawn up that he not be required to annex to city; and that an old access road to his property be returned to a condition "as good as it is now" following construction work.

A look into obtaining state funds for street repair—other than main streets—was requested by Banta, following a report from Whitely, Jacobsen & Assoc. at an earlier meeting with the council. Another meeting is planned to study the matter further.

Also on the meeting with Whitely, Keasey advised that the engineering firm had offered to up-

date the city's water system plan for a fee of \$2,500. The offer was accepted by council vote.

Next was a motion by Roberts to write the Burlington Northern Railroad requesting that right-of-way within the city limits to be abandoned soon be deeded to the city. Burlington has stated plans to pick up the rails on the Vernonia line.

The bid of \$1683 for a tractor-mounted street sweeper from Columbia Equipment Co. was accepted.

The recorder was instructed to forward a request to Robert E. Meyer, Engineers, Inc., requesting that pre-assessments in the East Vernonia Sewer District be completed by November 1.

The council also requested that Nelson write the Department of Environmental Quality requesting a meeting of that agency, the council and the garbage franchise holder in regards to operation of the city dump.

Public Invited To C of C Meet

Frank Deckebach, recently appointed manager of the E.P. Stamm Managed Forest, will be guest speaker at the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday evening. The public is invited to attend. The meeting will be held at West Oregon Electric, 8 p.m. All Chamber meetings are open to the public, they remind.

The chamber has been alerted by the Consumer Services Division of the State Department of Commerce to be on the lookout for an itinerant house painter using the name of Rex M. Clemens. After receiving a down payment for painting a house he will paint for a few hours and then disappear, never to be seen again.

Attention is called to a conference, "Mobiles and Modulators: Potentials and Problems," to be held at the State Fairgrounds in Salem October 12, 13. More information can be secured from the chamber secretary.

An ordinance providing for disposal of abandoned vehicles was given its first and second reading, and is to be read again and adopted at the next council session.

Discussion of the proposed charter for the city was held, with Vagt advising that all voters would have to be notified by mail of the proposed document. A "voter's pamphlet"—in the form of a letter—will be prepared and circulated to all registered voters of the city.

The charter proposal will be submitted to voters at the November 7 election. The city will provide the "pro" side of the issue, and anyone wishing to take the "con" side may contact the city about the possibility of getting their comments incorporated into the pamphlet.

One of the provisions to be changed from the original proposal in the new charter was the matter of a vote for the mayor. By a three to one majority, the council amended the proposed charter to provide the mayor with full voting powers.

A canvass of the votes on the recent rural/city fire services merger was made, with Keasey reporting the measure was defeated by a vote of 162 to 90.

Another item of business was to increase insurance coverage for city property after an appraisal of the new facilities raised the city's

holdings to a total of \$169,250,000. The additional premium, which was approved, was \$239 per year.

Closing the session was a discussion on two applications for water service to persons residing outside the city limits. The applications of J.D. Price and Frank Enyart were tabled pending a recommendation from the city's water engineer.

The next regular meeting night for the council will be Monday evening, October 16, 8 p.m. at the new City Hall.

Enrollment Up At 47J Schools

The enrollment figures of School District 47J have grown by eight students since the opening week of school.

Vernonia High School opened with 239 students and now has 241 students; 68 Freshmen, 63 Sophomores, 62 Juniors, and 48 Seniors. In the elementary schools enrollment has climbed from 508 to 514, since the start of classes.

Enrollments by schools and grades are as follows:

Washington	
Kindergarten	37
First	20
Second	21
Third	19
Fourth	45
Fifth	62
Sixth	62
Seventh	80
Eighth	59
Total	405
Lincoln	
Level 1	23
Level 2	13
Level 3	24
Level 4	20
Total	81
Mist	
First	5
Second	6
Third	4
Fourth	5
Fifth	3
Sixth	5
Total	28

Richard Banzer Takes Own Life

Richard Banzer, 53-year-old resident of the Mist area, died Wednesday morning, apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Banzer reportedly had been despondent in recent weeks.

According to the investigating officer, Deputy Earl Ray, Banzer's wife stated he had left the house at approximately 8 a.m. to feed the cattle. When he failed to return to the house, she went to investigate at about 10 a.m., and discovered his body in the barn. The body was taken to Fuiten Mortuary in Vernonia.



PRESENTATION OF a 10 foot by 19 foot American flag to the City of Vernonia was made Monday evening by Sea Scout Ship No. 649. The ship's crew, headed by James Goodman, turned the flag over to Mayor Sherman Fisher. Now, the city faces a double problem—"what to do with the flag," both because of its size and because the NEW City Hall does not sport a flag pole.



DIARMUID O'SCANNLAIN — featured speaker for October 14 West Oregon Electric Co-op's annual meeting.

Commissioner to Give Address at Co-op's Meeting

Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain (pronounced Deer-mud O'-Scan-lan), Public Utility Commissioner of the State of Oregon, will be the guest speaker for Vernonia-based West Oregon Electric's annual meeting October 14, it has been announced by Guy I. Thomas, manager. Thomas further stated that all who possibly can attend should hear the message that Commissioner O'Scannlain will bring. Commissioner O'Scannlain was appointed to his post July 1, 1971 by Governor Tom McCall.

Commissioner O'Scannlain represents customers and the public generally in regard to electric, gas, telephone and water utilities, railroads and motor carriers in the State of Oregon in such matters as rates, valuations and service. Because Oregon alone among the states holds a single commissioner responsible for public utility and transportation regulation, his position is unique. His headquarters are in the Public Service Building at Salem.

Commissioner O'Scannlain is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and is a member of the Oregon and New York Bars. Prior to his appointment he was the Deputy Attorney General of Oregon. Prior to this he was with the Portland law firm of Davies, Biggs, Strayer, Stoel & Boley.

By virtue of his office, Commissioner O'Scannlain serves as a member of Oregon's Nuclear and Thermal Energy Council, which was created by the 1971 Legislature to regulate siting and operation of nuclear power plants. Commissioner O'Scannlain is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and of the Public Utility Law Section of the American Bar Association. He serves on NARUC's committee on United States-Canada Energy Supply, and the Thermal Plant Siting Committee of the Western Interstate Nuclear Board.

Among his civic endeavors, he serves as vice-chairman of the City of Portland Pittock Mansion Advisory Commission, and he is active in the City Club of Portland, where he served on the Sign Code Revision Committee. The commissioner also is a major in the Army Reserve and serves as the Staff Judge Advocate of the 364th Civil Affairs Area (B) Headquarters in Portland.

The commissioner resides in Portland with his wife, the former Maura Nolan of Tacoma, Washington, and his five children named Sean, Jane Fortune, Brendan, Kevin, and Megan.