



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 29, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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DEPARTMENT HEADS FAVOR CITYWIDE SALARY FREEZE - City Manager Bill Grile and Finance Director Janell Howard continue to work on the City and Urban Renewal Agency budget proposals for FY 2002-2003. Two weeks ago the city manager gave the City Council a 50-slide PowerPoint presentation on the City's General Fund budget challenges. E-mailed copies of this are available upon by sending a request to bgrile@coosbay.org

Following this weeks meeting with Coos Bay department heads, the city manager sent a memorandum to the presidents of the police, fire and general government unions with this message: *"Given the obvious severity of the long-term challenges facing us, this morning department heads agreed with me about future salary increases. Department heads and I want you to know that we are prepared to accept a salary freeze and believe this should be citywide in order to mitigate the even more serious budget challenges that will face us in FY 03-04."*

The city manager's "recommended" budgets and budget messages will be released to the public on Thursday, April 11th. Copies will be posted to the City's WEB site at www.coosbay.org for those interested in a close look. Public meetings of the Coos Bay Budget Committee will begin on April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Coos Bay Public Library, and are expected to continue for four to six evenings over the following couple weeks. As always, public input is welcome.

REACHING OUT TO BUSINESSES FOR HELP - This week Coos Bay Downtown Association President Chris Coles joined City Manager Bill Grile with visits to several local businesses. Their mission was to ask key downtown players to get more involved in Association activities and efforts to help restore downtown to the vibrant place everyone agrees is possible. Visits were made to U.S. Bank, Umpqua Bank, South Coast Office Supply, Island Sun and Outdoor In. Renee Middleton (U.S. Bank), Joannie Mostert (Umpqua Bank), Frank Hansen (South Coast Office Supply), Terry Tice (Island Sun) and Mark Daily (Outdoor In) all expressed interest and will hopefully become more involved. The City of Coos Bay's efforts to help improve downtown continue, and everyone benefits when downtown "speaks with one voice." Conversations with other key downtown players that need to become more involved will follow.

BEAVER HILL POWER GENERATION UPDATE - About a week ago Coos County Solid Waste Administrator Steve Allen circulated an update on the "waste-to-energy feasibility study" that is the subject of a request for proposals. Allen reports that responses have been submitted to the County and that he will be receiving assistance from two local engineers, Will Wright, and Robert O'Bryan, in reviewing the proposals. Both have volunteered their time for this work, completion of which is expected by the end of next week. "We received four proposals from what appear to be very qualified firms," said Allen. "Only one of the proposals was from an Oregon based company," he added. The study is expected to cost between \$29,000 and \$115,000, depending on which of the proposals is ultimately selected by the County Commissioners. This will be a topic of the April meeting of the County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. The Committee is scheduled to meet again on April 10th at 6:00 p.m. at the Coos Bay Public Library.

A SHARP SALUTE FOR THREE OF COOS BAY'S POLICE OFFICERS - Congratulations to Sgt. David Main and Officer Larry Mauer for reaching THIRTY year milestones with the Coos Bay Police Department, and also to Officer Peter Kirk for reaching his fifth. The dedication and commitment of these fine officers deserves a sharp salute from all of us. Congratulations gentlemen ... and thanks!!

REGIONAL HOUSING REHABILITATION EFFORTS MOVES ON - Local communities met again on March 14th to finalize the organizational structure for the Regional Housing Center and to determine how the area wished to make application for Community Development Block (CDBG) grant funds. It was determined that the funds would be requested by each county, but would be used county-wide, including within city boundaries. City representatives for the Steering Committee were also selected. In Coos County, Bud Schmidt, Myrtle Point City Manager, and Shanda Shribbs, Coos Bay Community Services Director, were selected. In Curry County, Martha Weaver, Port Orford City Administrator, was selected. Each county will also be selecting a member for the Steering Committee. Umpqua Community Development Corporation will be assisting the counties with their application for CDBG funds. If the applications are successful, funds will be available in the area for low and moderate income homeowners to make basic repairs to their homes. If you have questions, please contact Shanda Shribbs at 269-8918.

BRUSH IN THE RIGHT OF WAY - Spring is on the way and the vegetation along the right of ways is beginning to grow and cause problems for pedestrians and cars. Remember vegetation along the right of way out to the curb or edge of pavement/edge of gravel that is abutting your property is your responsibility to keep trimmed back. Vegetation overhanging sidewalks must be kept trimmed to a height of eight (8) feet above the sidewalk and twelve (12) feet over the street. Being proactive will save the City time and money by not having to investigate complaints about overgrowing vegetation and help out the drivers and pedestrians who use the street and/or sidewalk in front of your property.

MINGUS PARK POOL TO CLOSE FOR MAINTENANCE - The Mingus Park pool will be closed April 1st through April 5th for routine maintenance and safety inspections. Each year the City is required by the State to open the boiler up for inspection. At the same time, city crews remove and place new sand in the filters that the pool water goes through. The City also will be installing a new chemical controller that monitors and injects the chemicals into the water to keep the water at a safe level for the swimmers. During the closure, the City also will replace a valve and other miscellaneous tubing that is beginning to leak and show signs of wear. It is anticipated that the pool will be up and running by Saturday, April 6th barring any significant problems/complications with the closure.

THE LADY WASHINGTON IS RETURNING - The Lady Washington is returning to Coos Bay for a another visit. She will be in port from April 20th to May 5th and will be moored at the Coos Bay City Dock along Highway 101. Stay tuned for more information on the activities that the ship will have when in port. For more information contact Beve Saukko with the Coos Bay/North Bend Promotions & Convention Bureau at 541-269-8921 or e-mail tourism@harborside.com

COOS BAY SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETINGS - The School Board will hold two special meetings to hear public comments on the recommendations made by the Resource Advisory Committee regarding school configurations for next year. The first meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 3, 2002 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at Sunset Middle School. The second meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 10, 2002 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at Millicoma Middle School. Interested citizens are welcome to attend.

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A special Board meeting has also been scheduled for **Monday, April 15, 2002 at 7 p.m.** at which time the Board plans to take action and give direction to Coos Bay School administrators in order to prepare the 2002-03 budget. This meeting will be held in the City Coos Bay Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay. For more information contact the superintendents office at 267-3104.

TREE CITY USA - The City of Coos Bay was designated Tree City USA in 1994. Each year the City receives recognition for participating in the Tree City USA program which is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. To become a Tree City USA a community must meet four standards: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance. Gary Schulz, Oregon State Forestry Department, will present the City Council with a Tree City USA award at the City Council meeting next Tuesday. Also making a presentation on Bay Area Arbor Day events will be Tricia Neal.

“More than ever, today we understand the importance of trees to our cities and towns,” said John Rosenow, president of The National Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees help clean our air and water, moderate heat and cold, and bring warmth and grace to our homes.” “Tree City USA recognizes communities that have proven their commitment to an effective, ongoing community forestry program,” Rosenow added. “Such a program is one marked by renewal and improvement.”

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT AMERICAN BRIDGE COMPANY - With much deserved excitement about American Bridge Company’s decision to site its new west coast headquarters at Bolen Island in Reedsport, here is an opportunity for you to learn more about this development directly from it DEO, Bob Luffy. Thanks to the South Coast Development Council for alerting us to this WEB link, http://www.facilitycity.com/fc_exp_02_03_move.asp where Mr. Luffy answers a number of direct questions about American Bridge and its recent announcement to locate here.