



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

March 8, 2002

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CITY FACES BUDGET CHALLENGES DUE TO DROP IN REVENUE - City Manager Bill Grile reported to the City Council Tuesday evening that cuts in personnel and services would be proposed in the budget for fiscal year 2002/2003, and spending in the current budget year will be cut back to essential materials and services due to the drop in the City's revenue. Staff continue to review the budget and departmental practices and procedures for ways to minimize the affects of the funding shortfall. The following is the report he gave Tuesday evening:

This is a challenging time for all levels of government in Oregon ... including school districts. Locally, both Coos Bay and North Bend Public Schools are struggling with their budgets, and you have undoubtedly read that the City of North Bend is considering a bond sale for equipment and building remodeling, and an operating levy to avoid personnel and program cuts. The City of Coos Bay will not be immune from its own budget challenges and it is now clear that these will be far greater than anticipated even a short time ago.

Several factors are causing these challenges: General Fund carryover to help start FY 2002-2003 will be down; property taxes will be increasing only about \$100,000 (2.6%); 9-1-1 revenues will be down about \$145,000; interest earnings are down and expected to remain down; gas tax revenues will be down, and even this year are coming in approximately \$100,000 less than anticipated in our adopted budget; and franchise fees - our second greatest revenue source - will be flat next year.

Yesterday I directed department heads to spend only for discretionary items that are critically essential, and to cut their materials and services proposals for next year. Arbitrated/negotiated salary and insurance cost increases compound the challenges we'll be facing July 1st.

Department heads support my strong conviction that we should not ask Coos Bay voters to consider an operating levy at this time. However, this means that balancing next year's General Fund will require significant cuts and a departure from the status quo. Personnel cuts will be necessary and are under consideration for all departments except the Library. I am working with department heads to identify positions that should be cut before July 1st in order to lessen the overall impact after July 1st.

With significant input from department heads, positions I have identified for a reduction in force include, by department:

City Manager's Office

$\frac{3}{4}$ Clerical Assistant

Finance Dept.

$\frac{1}{4}$ Clerical Assistant

Police Dept.

3 Dispatchers (9-1-1 Funded)
1 Clerical Specialist
½ Evidence/Property Custodian

Fire Dept.

1 Firefighter (above the charter amendment)
1 Office Manager

Community Services Dept.

1 Engineering Technician
1 Planner
1 Lead Maintenance Worker II (Streets)
1 Maintenance Worker II (Streets)

And although the General Fund is still not yet in balance even with these cuts, department heads and I will continue to wrestle with options to see if we can reduce the list and avoid the service reductions that would result should layoffs occur in these positions. The 12 positions identified above represent about 10% of Coos Bay's workforce. Thanks for your continued support. As always I will keep you informed of our actions.

CITY BUDGET UPDATES TO BE FEATURED ON SUNDAY MORNING RADIO PROGRAMS -

Talk show programs featuring discussions about the North Bend and Coos Bay budgets will be featured the next two Sunday mornings on the New Northwest Broadcasters' radio stations: KOOS 94.9FM, KACW 107.3FM, KBBR 1340 AM and KHSN 1230 AM. The thirty minute programs will start at 7:00 a.m. each of the two Sunday mornings. This Sunday, the featured guests will be North Bend Mayor John Briggs and City Administrator Gary Combs. On Sunday, March 17th, the featured guest will be Coos Bay City Manager Bill Grile.

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 placing 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.

SOUTH COAST DIXIELAND CLAMBAKE JAZZ FESTIVAL - The 14th annual South Coast Dixieland Clambake Jazz Festival is scheduled for March 8th - 10th. This year's festival is featuring 17 great bands from Oregon, Washington, California, and Nevada. The music features Traditional Dixieland Jazz along with Big Band, Swing, and a little Cajun and Zydeco. The music begins at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and continues through Sunday until 8:30 p.m. The four festival sites are The Red Lion, Old City Hall, The Mill Casino, and the North Bend Community Center. Daily or all event badges are available at any of the sites.

This year's festival has new features. On Thursday March 7th at 7:00 p.m. a pre-festival event will be held at the new Southwestern Performing Arts Center. "To Bessie With Love", an award winning production written and performed as an historical tribute to jazz/blues singer Bessie Smith, known as the "Empress of the Blues". This features San Francisco's dazzling vocalist Pat Yankee and Her Gentlemen of Jazz, with

writer, director, and narrator Frank E. Rielly, with guest artist "Fast Eddie" Tickets are available at the door.

The second new feature is a Youth Venue at the Celebration Center in North Bend. Admission is free to all at this site starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. This site will feature several high school and youth bands from Florence, North Bend, Coos Bay, Coquille, Myrtle Point, and Bandon. In addition, Oregon Coast Lab Band and the New Traditionalists, a youth band from Sacramento, will also be featured at this site as well as other jazz venues during the weekend. Further information is available by calling 888-0100 or 396-5373.

FUN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE SENDS DONATION TO THE CITY - In a letter dated March 4th, from Fun Festival Committee members Chair Cindi Miller, Co-Chair Carolyn DeMetz, Secretary Kathy Stickler and Treasurer Connie Davis, \$1,000 was donated to the City in appreciation for all the assistance the Fun Festival received from City crew members before, during and after the 2001 Fun Festival. The City Manager's Office extends our appreciation to the committee for recognizing city employees for their work on the festival. Great Job Everyone!

LIBRARY WILL HOST FORMER POLICE CHIEF/AUTHOR - A nice article in Sunday's Eugene Register Guard was a good lead-in to Coos Bay Public Library's next "Author's Night at the Library" program, which is next Thursday, March 14th, 7:00 p.m. in the Myrtlewood Room at the library. The article, "Former Police Chief Stays on the Homicide Beat," talks about Janet McClellan, former police chief, prison official, homicide investigator, who now teaches at Southwestern Oregon Community College and directs the criminal justice department. She is also the author of mystery fiction novels, and will share her experiences, literary and otherwise, next Thursday.

POPULAR SPEAKER, TOM NASH, RETURNS TO THE BAY AREA IN LIBRARY PROGRAM - Tom Nash, of Southern Oregon University, will return to the area as part of Coos Bay Public Library's Chautauqua series, funded by Oregon Council for the Humanities. His talk will be "The Works Progress Administration in Oregon" on Saturday, March 9th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Myrtlewood Room. At the height of the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration sent writers and researchers into every corner of Oregon. Along with thousands of interviews, the WPA gathered boxes of legends, photos, documents, maps, songs, myths, recipes and more. Borrowing from these WPA treasures, Nash presents a lively, informative program of stories, anecdotes, and songs depicting Oregon life from the frontier era to the 1930s.

PORTLAND YOUTH PHILHARMONIC PERFORMANCE CANCELED - The Portland Youth Philharmonic has announced with regret that it must cancel its Coos Bay performance, planned for Saturday March 9th, because of unresolvable schedule conflicts. Portland Youth Philharmonic's Coos Bay performance was to have been the final stop in a tour that had as its major focus a performance with a fellow youth orchestra in the Medford/Ashland area. Nancy Price, OCMA President, said, "Both the Youth Philharmonic and the OCMA are disappointed that we had to cancel our date. But we intend to stay in touch with this very accomplished orchestra. If they take up plans for a southern-Oregon tour next year we'll want to be included in that schedule!"

COUNCIL SUPPORTS APPLICATION FOR E-COMMERCE DESIGNATION - The City Council adopted Resolution 02-08 supporting application to the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department for designation of Electronic Commerce status for the Bay Area Enterprise Zone. The Bay Area Enterprise Zone Board received notification that four of Oregon's enterprise zones will receive the designation of Electronic Commerce status. The application deadline to the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department is March 20th and the board has requested the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, and Coos County to each adopt a resolution

approving application for Electronic Commerce status. The Bay Area has utilized the Enterprise Zone status to create over 600 jobs since 1999 and receiving the designation of Electronic Commerce would enhance our ability to attract a wider variety of businesses to locate to the Bay Area.

STORMWATER REPAIR PROJECT APPROVED - The Urban Renewal Agency approved the stormwater repair project at Bayshore and Curtis Avenue at their meeting Tuesday evening. The project will install an additional catch basin which will eliminate excess water puddling along the street. The project has been awarded to Johnson Rock Products, and depending on the weather, could begin within the next couple of weeks. There will traffic control in this area and we ask that motorists and pedestrians be patient with us during the construction. The benefit will be well worth the short time of inconvenience.

GIRL SCOUTS CELEBRATE THEIR 90TH BIRTHDAY - Members of Girl Scout Troop No. 542, lead by Joyce Hammer, attending the City Council meeting Tuesday evening to present a proclamation celebrating Girl Scout Week March 10th through March 16th. This year marks the 90th birthday of the organization which was started in 1912 by Gordon and Julia Lowe to provide opportunities for girls from all segments of American life to develop their potential, make friends and become a vital part of their community.