

NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION



LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This document, upon approval in a public meeting by the Board of County Commissioners, serves as official minutes of such meetings as required under the Open Meetings Law, ORS 192.650.

Pursuant to notice made by mailing agendas to news media, a selected list of jurisdictions and individuals in Lane County, a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held.

Questions should be directed to The Board Office Specialist 3, ext. 4203.

February 12, 1992
9:00 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Harris Hall
Main Floor

Chair Ellie Dumdi presided with Steve Cornacchia, Marie Frazier (on-speaker phone), and Jerry Rust present. Jack Roberts excused. Judy Haldeman, Recording Secretary.

PUBLIC HEARING

- a. PUBLIC HEARING/In the Matter of A Proposed Tax Base for the Pleasant Hill Park and Recreation District.

Teresa Wilson, Assistant County Counsel, stated that this Public Hearing was to consider the effect of the proposed Pleasant Hill Tax District tax base on other units of local government. The substantive hearing will take place before the Boundary Commission on February 27. She stated that the present combined tax rate in the Pleasant Hill area was about \$2.25 per \$1,000 and this proposed tax base would add about \$3.70 per \$1,000 which would be below the \$10 cap for non-school governments.

Rust asked what other taxing districts are within the area of the proposed boundaries that may have an interest in this proceeding. Wilson stated that the County and the Pleasant Hill School District were included as well as four rural fire protection districts; Goshen, Pleasant Hill, Dexter and Creswell.

Dumdi opened the Public Hearing.

Dr. W. A. Miller, 82566 Anthony Creek Road, commented that he is a taxpayer and property owner and that he represents seniors who are on a fixed income, some with disabilities. He stated that taxes have always been high in Pleasant Hill and that an additional tax would be a handicap which would hurt young property owners as well. He commented that the Superintendent has cut classes even though he received \$200,000 from the state.

John Tyler, 82320 Hanna Road, Dexter, founding member of the No Park District Tax Citizens Group recently formulated to fight the Pleasant Hill Park District. He stated that there has been a slick public process designed to convince the County that there is unanimity in favor of the park district. He stated that nothing could be further from the truth. He stated that the Boundary Commission process has been politicized to fit the time lines set by the Park District supporters. He asked if it was legal to create a new tax authority to bypass the effects of Measure 5 and he asked what the impact will be on other taxing bodies within this district.

George Bradshaw, 84387 Gaupp Lane, Pleasant Hill, commented that he had paid taxes on this property for 28 years and prior to that had lived 22 years on Old Highway 58 and has actively participated in the district as a school board member, member of the long-range planning committee for schools, etc. He stated that he is not against good schools, but has an urgent concern about the long-term consequences of this proposed measure. He asked that the Legislature be given time to solve this funding problem for schools. The Park District proposal will divide voters and make it difficult to pass measures in the future. He stated that a new organization should not be added when the Governor has recommended dropping many current organizations.

Ken Mole, 82076 Lost Creek Road, Dexter, commented that he had been a taxpayer for 25 years and that he wants the best education for kids. He stated that Measure 5 was to level off property taxes and he did not want any more taxes. He stated that the Governor has plans for the schools and people should wait to see what those plans will suggest.

Jim Large, 81620 Lost Valley Lane, Dexter, stated that he had been in the district for 42 years and had been a school supporter most of that time. He stated that it was a relief to him that taxes will finally be lowered as a result of Measure 5. He suggested that citizens wait for the Governor and the Legislature to develop a plan and not create another taxing entity. He stated that this proposal has nothing to do with parks and is mainly for school finance.

Cliff Everett commented that the Oregon Constitution gives people the power to do what they want and public servants are supposed to obey. Measure 5 is a clear command to reduce taxation. He stated that "we say we are overfed and undernourished in this country." but that "we are really over-controlled and under-served."

Rick Reis, 85026 Huss Road, Pleasant Hill, commented that he had put three children through the Pleasant Hill Schools and that he has been a strong supporter of the schools. He stated that he voted against Measure 5 and is against this Park District because he thinks that it is the wrong idea at the wrong time. He suggested that the district wait until the Legislature has made its decision and suggested that there be user fees for the extracurricular activities. He said that creation of a park district would be a duplication of staff and administrative expense.

Neal Turnbull, M. Moon, C. Turner, and Larry Davis were against the Pleasant Hill Park and Recreation District and stated that their comments had already been covered.

Don Furrer, representing Creswell Rural Fire Protection District, read a letter drafted by the Board of Directors for the Fire District regarding their concern about establishing a new taxing district. The volunteer fire department is opposed to this district (see material on file).

Paul Smelt, 85699 Hampstead Lane, commented that the formation of a park district to circumvent the consequences of Measure 5 is unethical if not illegal and he urged everyone to vote against it.

Don Sampson, 38758 Dexter Road, Dexter, expressed his concern about being able to pay his current taxes, not to mention any new ones.

Darl M. Hunt, 37585 Wheeler Road, Dexter, commented that he had lived in the area since 1956. He stated that the Pleasant Hill Rural Fire District tax would be \$1.09 per \$1,000 for this year, that the District was in desperate need of more training funds, better equipment and more funding for staff. The District would like to propose an increase in the tax base to \$1.67 per \$1,000. He suggested that there be more time taken to weigh the issues of the Park District and stated that it was not a long-term solution.

Mike Griffiths, 82330 Rattlesnake Road, Dexter, commented that the School District has lost funds and should have the opportunity to have this on the ballot. The majority of the people in Lane County did not vote in favor of Measure 5 and he felt that the people should continue to fund quality education if they choose. Extracurricular activity is a part of the education of students.

Jim Howard, Superintendent of Pleasant Hill School District, urged the Board to give Pleasant Hill a chance to vote on this issue. He stated that there is room for the Fire District and the Park District while remaining under the \$10 cap.

Lyle Payne, 85309 Jasper Park Road, Pleasant Hill, Chief of the Pleasant Hill Fire District, stated that his board was not in favor of this park district and stated that it would restrict the taxing ability of the Fire District.

Dick Nice, 85880 1st Street, representing Goshen Rural Fire Protection District, stated that his District would be going out for a serial levy for equipment.

Janet Lovelace, 34593 Mathews Road, stated that she was in support of the park district and believes in investing in the school's future.

Don Laird, 86147 Laird Lane, Pleasant Hill, Chair of the Pleasant Hill Park and Recreation District Formation Committee, commented that the

County, fire districts and the park district would be the three taxing districts and that there should be room under the \$10 limit into the future.

Chad Greensberg, 81436 Lost Creek Road, Dexter, stated that he was concerned that this issue is being pushed forward too quickly.

Nina Sarratt, P. O. Box 781, Pleasant Hill, student at Pleasant Hill High School, stated that she had been active in sports and music, that these activities have been good for her and that there would be a gain with a Park District.

Beth Dodson, 35503 Brabham Road, Pleasant Hill, student, stated that the park district is not just for schools and she would support it.

Amy Palanuk, 84990 Ridgeway Road, Pleasant Hill, student, commented in favor of the park district and stated that she is involved in many programs which will be cut from the school programs.

Ashley Stoddert, 85304 Nestle Way, Pleasant Hill, student, commented that he would support the park district and he wants to continue to participate in extracurricular activities.

Nicole Presyler, 36037 Parkway Road, Pleasant Hill, student, commented that some programs are already being cut and that the students are affected. She approves of the park district and would like to have this issue placed on the ballot.

Don Anderson, 85020 Parkway Road, Pleasant Hill, stated that no one knows what will happen statewide in response to Measure 5 and there are already enough taxes. He stated that there are some good concepts in this proposal but it was the wrong time. He would support a wage freeze for employees.

Matt Keepers, 84385 Keepers Road, Pleasant Hill, stated that he has been a resident of this area since 1941. He is in favor of user fees for sports and added that there will probably be user fees for the park district; it is the wrong time to impose another tax. He asked that the state be required to develop an integrated program for funding but this one was unfair to property owners.

There being no one else present who wished to testify, Dumdi closed the Public Hearing.

Rust stated that this had been a good discussion and that the park district was an issue for Pleasant Hill residents to decide, as there seemed to be no legal issue which prevents this from going to the ballot. He stated that it was his duty to let the residents decide through a vote. Cornacchia commented that there was not a lot of room for the Board to consider issues and that the Board could not make a decision for the residents. Dumdi stated that people need to control their own destiny and

that the residents have three months to educate each other on the issues of a park district. She would support putting this on the ballot. Frazier agreed.

This meeting recessed at 10:50 a.m. to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.



Judy Haldeman
Recording Secretary