

Marys River Estates Road District

DRAFT 3rd Budget Committee Meeting Notes – 2009-2010 FY

April 14, 2009

Attendees: Glen Aukstikalnis, Yvette Spitz, Brian Bach, Laura Berman, Dave Harry, Christine Hauser, Sha Sifford, Robyn Lillihei, Andy Evans, Andy Evans

Meeting started: 7:35 PM

Agenda/Purpose: (Andy) – main goal tonight is to decide on a rate of taxing – 100%, 75% or 50% of current rate.

Brian – Question as to whether we are going to agree on projects first before tax rate decision?

Robyn – Explanation of why we were here – the principle goal will be to select a tax rate. Some review will be made of proposed projects. The following budget hearing is the formal place for public input.

Linda – brief overview of last 2 meetings. Previous meeting notes aren't complete yet, but will be submitted soon (AI – Mike and Robyn)

Linda reviewed where the initial revenue budget #'s came from on LB-20. Mike and Andy noted that the expenditures projected out to the end of the year were from historical, but didn't reflect budgeted expenses for ditch and patch and paving. Linda will follow up to try and accurately reflect next year's beginning balance with that in mind. This isn't easy, as there are many uncertainties (see discussion on HCP/butterfly habitat below). In any event, some 'last minute' (near the end of June) adjustments should be expected (as happens every year) to match actual cash on hand to budgeted.

Concern over butterfly habitat – Benton county will be conducting surveys in MRE and along roadside area in ~ 2 weeks.. Robyn's concern from reviewing the 'finalized' proposal on the county website is that **any** roadside work could be affected and many dollars may need to be spent to adhere to the HCP. Mike urged that the road district needs to get some resolution from the county as to what work we can move forward with, especially with respect to necessary routine items such as visibility mowing and ditch maintenance. (AI – Mike to contact county to get clarification & guidelines on conducting planned work-). *This AI is in progress –response from Carol Menke from IAE: "If there are no threatened/endangered species or habitat there, and no new Fender's blue populations found in the surrounding Marys River Estates area, your maintenance work should not be affected by any restrictions of the Endangered Species Act (or the related management guidelines in the Habitat Conservation Plan)". We'll contact them when the survey is complete.*

Discussion of taxes rates: Glen asked for some explanation on the large projects – some review of the possible scope of the Columbine project. Also, what are the options for the tax rates: every year we can change the rate below the maximum, or increase back up, at the discretion of the road district (budget law should be followed. There are also loans available, as well as special option levies.

Open discussion ensued on the pro's and con's of the tax rates – distilled below.

Motion was made to vote, 1 at a time,

100% - None – noted as near the highest taxing rate in the state. Would provide the maximum funds for future projects (and mitigate the need for loans and special option levies) for future improvement projects.

75% - Robyn, Mike, Andy, Laura – comments were made that with the carryover from this year, should provide some money for capital improvements next year, but recognize the resistance from some residents & encouraging more analysis to be done.

50% - Sha, Glen, - comments were made urging better definition and prioritization of projects, including public hearing with affected stakeholders, a decision to approve a well defined project and accurate cost estimates before a higher rate is justified.

75% motion was approved, and seconded rate set at 2.206 per 1000

Linda will update the budget forms and present to the public. Budget hearing set for May 7 at 7:30, Philomath public library.

Meeting adjourned, 9:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Miller