

Moss, Kevin

From: Terwilliger, Christina
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 10:03 AM
To: Schmidt, Gary
Subject: Mark Prairie Historical Society - Canby, OR

Good Morning,

The BCC received an e-mail and a letter (same content as the email below) from Judi Aus, she is trying to get property taxes waived for the Mark Prairie Historical Society. The assessor's office has already made a decision and has spoken with her multiple times about it. I am wondering if we want to move forward with this issue or just let it be with assessor's decision?

Thank you

Christina Terwilliger
(she/her) [why pronouns matter?](#)
Administrative Board Assistant
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners Office
503-655-8581
www.clackamas.us



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From: Longfellow, Lynn <LynnLon@clackamas.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 4:50 PM
To: Terwilliger, Christina <CTerwilliger@clackamas.us>
Cc: Rueda, Bronson <BRueda@clackamas.us>; Little, Tami <tamilit@clackamas.us>
Subject: RE: Mark Prairie Historical Society - Canby, OR

Hello Christina,

We have looked at the account and the circumstances regarding the exempt status of the property. For the 2016/17 and 2017/18 tax years the property qualified for exemption as a religious organization because it was being leased to the Church of God of Canby. The church vacated the space and the property lost its exemption for the 2018/19 tax

year. The taxes currently owed are for that 2018/19 tax year in the amount of \$1,063.84 (principal and interest). Interest will continue to accrue until paid. There is no provision in statute to forgive the taxes or interest that is owing.

Our staff have had multiple conversations with Ms. Aus regarding requalifying for exemption for the 2019/20 tax year. Unfortunately, they did not qualify for this tax year and taxes will be assessed. But with the progress they have made since July, they should be able to qualify for the 2020/21 tax year.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Lynn Longfellow, Appraisal Manager
Clackamas County Department of Assessment and Taxation
150 Beaver Creek Road, Oregon City, OR 97045
503-655-8671 www.clackamas.us/at

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From: Little, Tami
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2019 10:47 AM
To: Terwilliger, Christina <CTerwilliger@clackamas.us>
Cc: Longfellow, Lynn <LynnLon@clackamas.us>; Rueda, Bronson <BRueda@clackamas.us>
Subject: RE: Mark Prairie Historical Society - Canby, OR

Hi Christina,

We're taking a look at the account and will get back to you today.

Thanks,
Tami

From: Terwilliger, Christina
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 8:29 AM
To: Little, Tami <tamilit@clackamas.us>
Subject: FW: Mark Prairie Historical Society - Canby, OR

Good Morning Tami,

I wanted to forward on this e-mail that we received from Mark Prairie Historical Society and ask if you could please follow up on the back taxes issues?

Thank you

Christina Terwilliger
(she/her) [why pronouns matter?](#)

Administrative Board Assistant
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners Office
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From: Judi Hester Aus <orrelocation@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 6:31 AM

To: Schrader, Martha <MSchrader@clackamas.us>; BCCMail <BCCMail@clackamas.us>; Bernard, Jim <JBernard@clackamas.us>; khumbertson@clackamas.us; Savas, Paul <PSavas@clackamas.us>; Fischer, Sterling <SFischer@clackamas.us>

Cc: Klepper, Emily <EmilyKle@clackamas.us>; Hill, Caroline <CarolineHill@clackamas.us>; DeSantis, Kimberlee <KimberleeDeS@clackamas.us>; Moreland, Tracy <TracyMor@clackamas.us>; Cartasegna, Mary Jo <MJCartasegna@clackamas.us>; Property Tax Information <propertytaxinfo@clackamas.us>; Schmidt, Gary <GSchmidt@clackamas.us>

Subject: Mark Prairie Historical Society - Canby, OR

Judi Aus, President
Mark Prairie Historical Society
1805 N. Ponderosa St.
Canby, OR 97013

6 October 2019
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
2051 Kaen Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045
bcc@clackamas.us

Dear Chair Bernard and Commissioners Schrader, Savas, Humbertson and Fischer:
I reside at 1805 N. Ponderosa St., Canby, OR 97013 in Clackamas County and I am president of Mark Prairie Historical Society located at 7528 S. Mark Rd., Canby, OR 97013.

I write on behalf of Mark Prairie Historical Society (APN: 01011924) to ask the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners to act in our favor to the Clackamas County Tax Assessor to waive the back property taxes and interest (\$1064) which has accrued on the Mark Prairie Historical Society property, plus the 2019-2020 taxes due in November.

Mark Prairie Schoolhouse, set in a pristine grove of Oregon white oak, remains in good condition but suffers from deferred maintenance. It is designated as a Clackamas County Historic Landmark with an historic overlay zone. In addition, the two-acre site contains the Mark Family Memorial with graves of seven family members dating to March 5, 1859. It is recognized as an Oregon Historic Cemetery and was reportedly dedicated as Mark Memorial Park by county leaders in 1948.

Mark Prairie Historical Society (aka Mark Prairie Community Club), an all-volunteer organization, is celebrating its 70th year. It had been tax exempt until 2013 when the former Board of Directors failed to act as a charitable organization by meeting the requirements of a "Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation". In March 2019, a member of the Mark family paid 2015 back taxes in order to save the schoolhouse property from foreclosure.

The Oregon Department of Justice Charitable Division stepped in, drafting a Complaint in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, County of Clackamas, against the former Board of Directors to vacate their Board positions or to become a part of the Complaint (see attached). At that time, Susan Bower, Assistant Attorney General, contacted me and asked if I would be willing to step into the position of President of the Mark Prairie Historical Society if the current Board terminated their positions.

When I was a child, my family was active in Mark Prairie Community Club and Mother's Club. I was a member of two 4-H clubs that met regularly at the schoolhouse. After I married, I moved to another state until retirement and have moved back to Canby, my hometown. I agreed to be a member of the new Board of Directors. The former Board members resigned, and we were given authority by the DOJ to act as the newly organized Board of Directors of Mark Prairie Historical Society in July of 2019. I was elected President of the Board. On behalf of the Mark Prairie Historical Society, I am requesting your assistance in acquiring a waiver of delinquent taxes in our favor.

We are preparing to file to regain property tax exemption for our 501(c)3 organization by revising the old bylaws. There was less than \$10 in the bank account when the new Board took office; we now have over \$1000 with donations and membership dues. In addition to growing from 8 to 64 members in a few short months, we have:

- Elected a new Board of Directors and officers
- Set up a Calendar for Events
- Developed a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MarkPrairieHistoricalSociety/>
- Developed a Webpage <https://www.markprairiehistoricalsociety.org>
- Held 2 open houses
- Coordinated regular use by Cub Scout packs
- Held 4 Board Meetings and 2 Membership Meetings
- Hosted a Social open to the community – 15 guests
- Hosted the annual Mark Family Reunion
- Hosted booths at First Thursday in Canby and Aurora Colony Days
- Invited the public to a Social and Membership Meeting with a *Canby Herald* article
- Shared public invitations on our Facebook and webpage and others of regional neighbors and those interested in local history
- Participated in an interview about Mark Prairie to be featured on *Canby Now Podcast*
- Joined the Clackamas County Heritage Council

To honor and preserve the historical significance of this venerable schoolhouse for the community and open it for public use, we need to be able to spend our volunteer efforts and hard-raised funds to restore and maintain the wooden, one-room schoolhouse and pristine oak grove in which it's set; inventory, conserve, and share the collections and stories held within; host events, create programming, and upgrade plumbing and electrical systems; and grow and sustain a healthy organization to manage this pristine site for today's community and generations to come.

With only a handful of circa-1900, wooden, one-room schoolhouses left in Clackamas County, it is crucial that this authentic building and site remain intact to provide a window to our past. With the recent demolition of the Lone Elder Schoolhouse by the Canby School District, only Viola School remains in original condition and open to the public.

We need your help and would be most grateful to the county if you waived these property taxes and late fees so we can continue to move forward and serve the community by restoring and preserving the Mark Prairie Schoolhouse and Memorial Park, opening it for use and enjoyment by the public, today and for future generations. Please help this group of volunteers preserve a sliver of Clackamas County's past.

Sincerely,

/s/

Judi (Wolfer) Aus, President

Mark Prairie Historical Society

1805 N. Ponderosa St.

Canby, OR 97013

503-784-5106

burtandjudi@canby.com

cc: Tami Little, Clackamas County Tax Assessor, propertytaxinfo@clackamas.us

Gary Schmidt, Clackamas County Administrator, gschmidt@clackamas.us

Spam Email

Phishing Email

