

W.7.b.

Lane county commissioners,

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Re: Wednesday's agenda item 7. b Allowing church use of the museum site.

Dear Commissioners,

Having served on your planning commission in the past I know the need to work within the code. But I also know there are rare occasions when the greater good needs to be recognized.

This is one of those times.

The museum has the opportunity to move to old town Florence and into a 100 year old historic well preserved old school building and is well on the way to having all of the items that need to be in place covered, in order to make this a reality. Only one item stands in our path. That is a contingency in the contract for the sale of our current old church building that states, "receipt of a county occupancy permit". This building was built as a church in 1951 or 2 and was used that way for some 20years. Then the use changed to a restaurant which lasted about a year. During that year 1973 the county implemented its first zoning in that area. Now we could reasonably believe that had the church use been in effect at he time the zoning was implemented ,that wording to that effect would have been put in the code. Timing!

In fact just down the road a quarter of a mile or less is the Catholic Church.

The museum building is a high arched roof building that says "I am a church"!

The most important thing to remember is that time is a critical factor in this transaction.

The museum has to put non refundable money into its escrow on July 25th in order to keep its deal alive on the building we want to buy. The contingency of county approval to the church will have to be removed before that time **or the museum can not prudently move forward with its purchase of the building in old town.** There is another offer waiting in the wings if our offer fails.

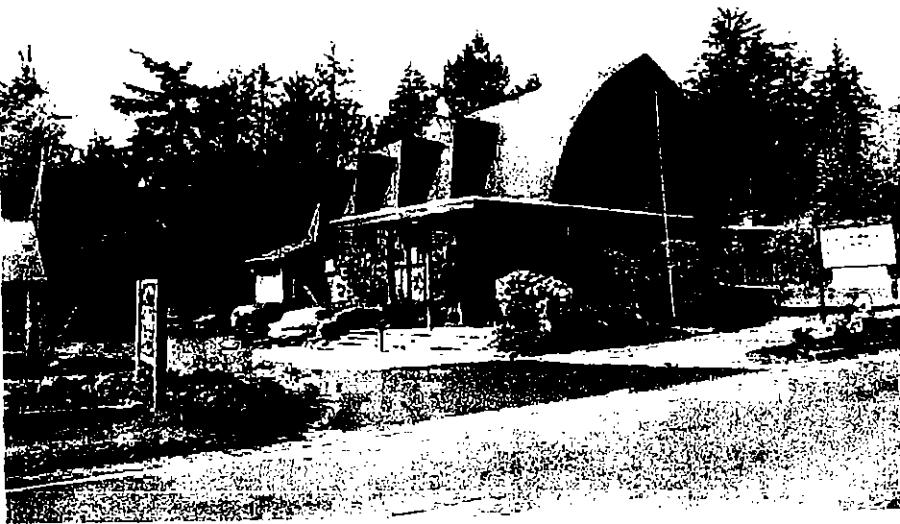
For the greater good you have to find some way to give the church the assurances that they can move in with the assurances that some of the issues such as paved parking will be addressed at a later date. Your county council needs to be asked to find the way for you the commissioners to do this, --- Now before July 25th.

Florence citizens want this museum to be in old town let work to make this happen.

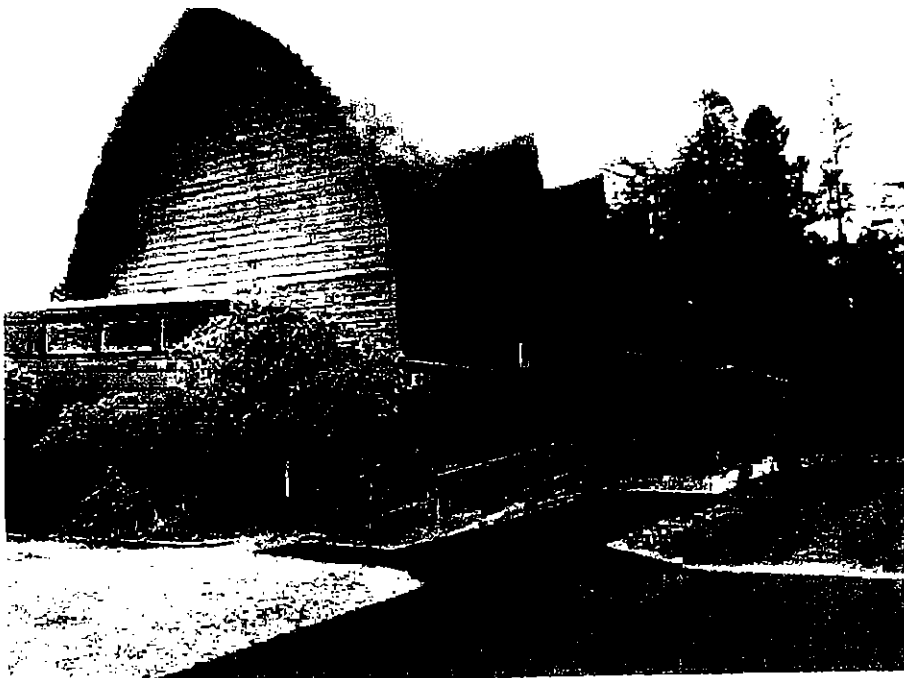
Delbert Phelps, President


Siuslaw Pioneer Museum

- 2) SE corner of the site and S'y entrance to the parking lot



- 3) View of the N'y access to the parking lot — note ramp entrance and covered interpretive area





W-7-b.

June 22, 2005

To: Lane County Commissioners

Re: Siuslaw Pioneer Museum/Lutheran Church Building

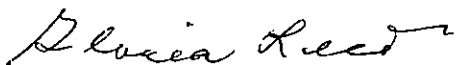
The building that now houses the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum originally housed a Lutheran Congregation of hard working and dedicated volunteers. They built the basement first with a temporary roof so they could hold their services while they completed the present church during the years of 1952 to 1954. It was dedicated as the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1954 with Don Butenshon as the Pastor. This building served them well for the next 15 years or more before the congregation moved to larger quarters in Florence.

During the 31 years the building has been a museum the docents have kept this history alive. The story of this unusual building is one of the first things we tell the visitors to the museum as we feel it is as much a part of the local history as the artifacts stored there.

Under the 2004 Oregon Fire Code both museums and churches are listed as A-3 classification but in the Use Code churches were left off of the Rural Industrial, although in this case there is a Catholic Church one-quarter mile south of the Museum Building. We can only feel this must have been a typing error that was not caught by someone.

We sincerely hope you can "grandfather" this building into its original use as a Lutheran church without further changes. It would be a shame to lose its historical value by requiring any unnecessary upgrades.

Sincerely,



Gloria Leet, Secretary and Museum Docent
Siuslaw Pioneer Museum



Walter Leet, Museum Docent

W. 7. b

739 Kingwood Street
(P. O. Box 224)
Florence, Oregon 97439-0008

To: Lane County Commissioners

From: Elsie M. Moore

RE: Grandfathering in the permitted use of the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum to once again be the Lutheran Church of which the building was originally built for.

I am a native of Western Lane County, my family coming here in the 1880's.

I have watched this area develop over the years and I am pleased with it's progress and THANKS to the Lane County and local officials in their wise planning.

All the people I associate with and have talked with feel as I do about the hopeful return of the property to the church and folk that originally built it for their worship.

My request would be that you, the Commissioners of Lane County would "Grandfather" this use for a church and not require the process of "permitted use" which is time consuming and/or a change in zoning. When it was built it was permitted as a church and it is my feeling that should not have changed.

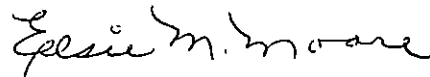
The Public is very excited over the possibility of the church returning to it's roots as well as the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum moving into the Callison Building in Old Town. We feel this is a once in a life time opportunity to be in the center of traffic with the Museum. The public opinion supports this desire.

Here is an opportunity for a lot of good-will toward the hard work you do in the County.

I feel confident you will consider the wishes of the local people in their desire and that you will do the right thing for our community.

Thank you very much for your wise decision in this matter.

Very sincerely,



Elsie M. Moore
Local Citizen