

Agenda Item Number 11.C.

Schaefers Building Refinance

Presenter: Bob Swank

Action Recommended: Authorize Refinancing of the Schaefers Building

Background:

The idea of refinancing the Schaefers Building was discussed by the Executive Committee in March. Since then the third floor of the building has been leased and LCOG staff have received refinancing proposals from two sources, Wells Fargo Bank and Umpqua Bank. Both proposals are encouraging and would address the financial objectives of refinancing. The final details of the loan will be negotiated after LCOG has committed to pursuing the refinancing. The background information that was provided in March follows:

LCOG purchased the Schaefers Building in 1991 and refinanced it in 1993 with Lane County Revenue Bonds. The original bond debt was about 2.1 million dollars with a composite interest rate just over 7 percent. The remaining principal will be about 1.2 million in July, 2006, and the final payment would be in 2013. During the 12 years since the debt was incurred, the building's value has increased from slightly more than 2.1 million to slightly more than 4.0 million. So, LCOG has about 3 million dollars in equity in the Schaefers Building.

There are several reasons that refinancing the debt on the Schaefers Building would be a good financial decision for LCOG. One reason is that LCOG can only recover actual expenses from Senior and Disabled Services, so refinancing would bring occupancy expense for S&DS closer to market rent.

Perhaps the most compelling reason is to increase LCOG's General Fund. The General Fund is the only discretionary resource available to LCOG. It has been too small for several years, an increase of 1.5 to 2.0 million dollars would provide the agency needed flexibility to provide matching funds for grants and contracts, tenant improvements and an appropriate cash reserve for liquidity.