

Pagnozzi Properties Files Bankruptcy

STAFF REPORT

SPRINGDALE — Pagnozzi Properties LLC recently filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy, listing company assets of \$631,035 and liabilities of \$1 million.

Tom Pagnozzi, one of the company's owners, said the bankruptcy is a business matter with no impact to Pagnozzi Charities or his personal affairs.

The codetors listed in the bankruptcy include Tom and Colleen Pagnozzi and Norman and Erin Wilcoxon.

The company filing lists Signature Bank as the only secured creditor. The bank holds mortgages on two lots in Fayetteville's Bridgewater Estates and first and second mortgage on rental property at 144 California Blvd. near

the University of Arkansas. This combined property is valued at \$605,000, leaving an unsecured balance of \$305,000. As of Nov. 23, the company's loans were current and paid as agreed, according to the filing.

Pagnozzi Properties report a net loss of \$75,332 in 2008, with gross receipts of \$332,897, according to the filing.

The authority is also involved in ongoing litigation with Vasundara and Vijay Varadan, represented by the Shemin Law Firm. A complaint and cross claim have been filed in Washington County Circuit Court involving the release of \$25,000 held in escrow by the court from a real estate transaction between the two parties, according to the filing.

Water Staff To Get Pay Hike

BOARD OKs 2 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE

By Scott F. Davis
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Rural water rates will stay the same next year for customers of the Washington Water Authority even though utility employees will get a modest pay hike, officials said.

The authority's board on Monday approved a wage increase totaling 2 percent of payroll to be distributed as merit pay increases, said Josh Moore, manager of the authority.

The board authorized Moore to consult with supervisors to determine how to distribute the increases among the utility's 14 employees, he said.

Moore agreed not to take a pay hike this year so that the 2 percent would go further, he said.

The hike adds about \$12,500 to the budget, he said.

The board's decision was influenced by the Washington County's plans to give its employees 2 percent rate increases, Moore said.

The county's Finance Committee approved

the hike in a meeting attended by all 13 justices of the peace.

The JPs will formally vote again at the Dec. 10 Quorum Court meeting.

The Washington County Rural Development Authority, which has oversight over the Washington Water Authority, last month approved the rural utility's budget that includes the increases.

That budget included no rate increases for customers and assumed no growth in water sales.

RDA chairman Frank Luther said the 2 percent pay increase seems reasonable.

The budget assumes that the utility's wholesale rural water provider, the Benton Washington Regional Public Water Authority, also known as Two-Ton, will not increase its rates, Moore said.

Scott Borman, general manager of the regional authority, said the board has not yet approved the 2010 budget, but draft budgets being considered do not include an increase in rates.

The proposed Two-Ton budget includes no growth in water sales, no pay increases for employees and no rate hikes for its customers, Borman said.

DEATH: Release Doesn't Say How Many Times Man Was Shot

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"A guy was in the drive-through, and he gave the teller a note explaining the details of the robbery and demanding money," he said.

According to the 911 dispatch report, the note read, "This is a robbery. My partners are at the front and back entrances looking for runners. Fill a bag with what's in the register. You have one minute. Don't hit the panic button or you will be in for a painful experience."

Bank employees locked themselves, along with one customer, inside the building and notified police.

Phelan said the first officer on the scene approached the man's white Honda Accord, which had a plastic bag covering the license plate, from the front of the bank.

Anderson began backing away from the officer, the report stated, and nearly struck two other officers. Officers ordered the man to stop and show his hands, but police said Anderson then rammed an occupied vehicle behind his car several times in an attempt to escape, according to a police news release issued Wednesday night.

An officer fired his gun to stop the threat, the release said. The release did not say how many times the officer fired or how many times Anderson was hit.

Jerod Dooley, a Salvation Army bell ringer, saw the shooting as he stood outside the Harps Food Store, next to the bank.

"I saw a police car pull into the parking lot really fast," he said. "I saw an officer jump out of the driver's seat and fire three times. He didn't say anything like, 'Halt' or 'Stop' first. He just started firing."

The Washington County Sheriff's Office is conducting

the criminal investigation into the shooting incident at the request of Fayetteville Police Chief Greg Taber. The officer involved in the shooting has been placed on paid administrative leave pending the results of an internal investigation.

Phelan said the officer's name wasn't being released pending notification of family members. Phelan said the two occupants of the car rammed by the man weren't injured.

"We requested an additional ambulance and fire personnel at the scene to check out the people in the car, as well as people in the bank," he said. "They were a little shaken up and scared, but they didn't have to be transported and no one else was injured."

Bank employees never gave the man money, the dispatch report stated, nor did they see him carrying a weapon. Calls made to Donny Story, Arvest Bank spokesman, weren't returned as of 9 p.m. Wednesday. Calls were made to Story at his office Wednesday after the shooting and a message was left at his home Wednesday evening.

The Fayetteville Police Department's use of force policy lists different levels of police power. The first two levels are police presence and verbal command, followed by hands-on force. Taser usage and pepper spray fall into the next level of force, followed by batons or flashlights, which are often used to strike a person's pressure points to gain control. The last level of police power includes lethal force, typically by way of firing their handguns.

Departmental policy states an officer may use deadly force to protect himself or others if he has reasonable belief of immediate threat of death or serious physical injury.

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