Ione Approves Additional Police Sergeant Position

The Ione Police department will expand as the Ione City Council approved an additional police sergeant position at their meeting last night. With that approval, the City of Ione will now have a total of eleven sworn officers, including the chief, two sergeants, and seven full-time and one extra-help officers. In requesting the extra help, the police force cited increased duties, due to new housing construction in Ione and additional traffic generated by the Harrah’s Northern California casino. The new position will be funded by the city’s existing police budget, which includes contributions from Mule Creek State prison and the Casino, as well as the city’s own General Fund. Speaking of budgets, the Council also approved its final budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has delayed approval for several months, and is likely to force more changes before the year is done, but the budget outlines 6.6 million dollars in revenues, including 3.1 million dollars to the City’s general fund. The City will acutely run an overall deficit of 1.3 million dollars once large payouts for construction projects are made from several city funds. The Council voted to not approve any new road repairs from the City’s share of gas tax revenue this year, instead the city will carry the money over to next year to fund a larger project.

