

## *Town of La Conner*

Town Council Special Meeting  
September 14, 2021, 5:00 p.m.  
Maple Hall  
108 Commercial Street  
La Conner, WA 98257

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Mayor Pro Tem Wohleb called the Special Meeting of the La Conner Town Council to order at 5:00 p.m.  
Present: Councilmembers Leaver, Stokes and Chamberlain.  
Also Present: Administrator Thomas, Finance Director DeGoede, Public Works Director Lease and  
WWTP Operator Wynn.

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### **Public Works Budgets:**

Public Works Director Lease presented the following budget information and requests.

#### Parks:

The pavilion for the Waterfront Park was approved by Council for 2021, but the contractor is way behind in projects causing it to roll over to 2022. The projected cost is \$30,000 with a reserved donation of \$12,000 to apply to the costs.

There is a place hold of \$75,000 for Maple Ball Field, as there will be some kind of costs for design and permitting. The amount to hold in the budget is Council decision.

The top priorities of the remaining projects are 1) Tree maintenance in Pioneer Park in the amount of \$30,000. This will take more than one year, as an arborist will have to go through the park to identify the problematic trees. 2) The boat ramp replacement in the amount of \$225,000. However, the permitting will take a long time. The rest of the projects listed are the items the Parks Commission has been discussing over the past several years.

#### Facilities:

Most of the costs for Facilities are basic O&M. There is a \$75,000 A/C cost listed, but the contractors are so busy, that a quote for the A/C installation for any of the facilities has not been received to date. The cost is just an estimated guess. Also, which facility or facilities will have the AC: Town Hall, Maple Hall or the Fire Station? Administrator Thomas explained the A/C improvements are more likely to qualify for ARP Funding. Public Works Director Lease also noted two of the contractors highly recommended replacing the entire heating systems dating from 1996. This would be a significant increase in costs.

#### Streets:

The Streets budget has two main expenses: 1) A contractor for the asphalt repairs at \$30,000. The repairs will require more than what our equipment can handle and 2) the removal of trees on Tillinghast Drive. The root systems are destroying the infrastructure by pushing up the sidewalks, as well as a light post. Cost is \$25,000 for the removal of the trees and sidewalk repairs. These two expenses are included in the O&M budget. It was suggested to remove the \$9,400 cost for the portable trailer sign as we already have a portable trailer and sign.

#### Water:

Along with basic O&M the focus is to complete the Water System Plan Update in the amount of \$100,000. This has to be done for compliance with the State Health Department. Three additional

project priorities are 1) Skagit Beach Water Main Replacement 2) First Street Water Main Replacement and 3) Phase 2 Water Main Replacement, all at significant costs. Public Works Director Lease has applied for loans with the Department of Health, but has not been successful due to the included fire flow the Town and Shelter Bay needs. That is the only funding he knows of for the planning portion of these projects. Administrator Thomas has reviewed funding as well, and found there are not any grants, but there are low interest loans, such as from the Public Works Trust Fund. All the project cost estimates have been updated at a 30% increase.

Finally, at the bottom of the budget, Public Works needs a new home at a guess estimate of \$1,500,000.

Drainage:

The \$112,000 6<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Replacements, is a rollover from 2021. He started in February of this year and the earliest the pumps will be here is mid-December. He is hoping he will get them. The rest is basic O&M.

There were discussions on the Whatcom Street project. The main problem is most of it is on private property. It goes in and out of the right-of-way. A lot of legal issues have to be cleaned up first.

Public Works will not be replacing the vacant full-time position, but has budgeted a seasonal position during the spring and summer months. Administrator Thomas requested less extracurricular activities directed at Public Works so they can focus on their primary duties.

Sewer:

The main Capital costs for Sewer is the \$100,000 engineering fees for the WWTP Report. This report will set out future plant improvements based on regulatory and age. Hopefully an RFP will be done this year and the engineer selection will be done in 2022. The Treatment Plant is almost 50 years old. Administrator Thomas explained the Swinomish Tribe has future plans for 500 new units. This will exceed our capacity as well as theirs, so they will be involved in the upgrade funding. It will be a shared cost. WWTP Operator Wynn stated they purchased a certain amount of capacity and are close to the limit now. Because of the planning process, the upgrades to the WWTP will be in the next four or five years. The engineer report will take the entire year 2022.

The second project is the \$50,000 driveway work. The cost is shared with Compost.

Compost:

\$50,000 Driveway work costs shared with the sewer fund and the \$200,000 front loader replacement. This is the large loader and is eleven years old.

**This meeting was also held remotely By Zoom, but audio was not clear for the participants in Zoom:**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

  
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Maria DeGoede, Finance Director

  
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Ramon Hayes, Mayor