

**Town of Coupeville
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 24, 2009
6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Nancy Conard, Councilmembers Dianne Binder, Bob Clay, Ann Dannhauer, and Molly Hughes.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Binder, to excuse Councilmember Jim Phay. The motion passed 4-0.

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Director Malcolm Bishop, Town Marshal Dave Penrod, Clerk Treasurer Judy Thomas

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Conard asked to revise the agenda Discussion item ‘Phytoremediation Pilot Project’ to be moved up on the agenda, to follow the Presentation.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the agenda as revised. Motion passed 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of March 10, 2009

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2009 were approved as submitted.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- Mayor Conard discussed the letter from the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) about their responses from the SAO Hotline program; this was in addition to the formal audit. The SAO Hotline program reviews and responds to citizen’s concerns; and they received over 20 requests from Will Jones expressing his concerns. The SAO reviewed and responded to all his concerns and copied the Town on all their responses. The audit manager explained that in the future, the SAO Hotline will review all concerns but if it is a repeat question, they will not be researching it further; also due to budget constraints the costs will be charged back to the town.
- Many attended the Town Hall Meeting with Senator Mary Margaret Haugen on Saturday, March 21st at the Rec Hall. Senator Haugen discussed current legislative issues; and the Transportation budget that she will be proposing includes four Island Home ferries to be constructed in the next few years; and no reductions in the Keystone/Pt Townsend ferry service.
- The Town recently received an application for demolition of the Libbey House located on North Main Street. Town Planner Larry Kwarsick will conduct an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) Scoping Hearing at the Commissioners Hearing Room on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 6:30 pm. She explained that because members of the Town Council and/or Design Review Board may be involved in decision making of this application, they need to be careful about any discussion of this subject that could jeopardize their ability to participate in the decision making, in the future. If anyone has any input or questions on this application they should provide it to Mr. Kwarsick or attend the scoping meeting. She noted that we plan to do everything possible to protect the Libbey house from demolition. She discussed with the applicant alternatives to demolition, and the first would be to try to preserve the structure; or possibly move it to a suitable location, possibly the Town-owned

vacant lot adjacent to Town Hall (on North Main Street). This is the first demolition application for a Class I structure and the staff intends to use every tool available to prevent demolition.

- March 12th, she attended the Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce meeting and Cathy d'Almeida was the presenter and she introduced the Green Power Challenge to the group.
- Today, she attended an LID (low impact development) summit meeting at the Whidbey Island Conservation District and there will be an LID tour on Friday, April 17th.
- Tomorrow is the COG meeting and one of the presentations will be by Stacey Smith and Karen Bishop about the LID summit; they will have an update on the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition activities and presentations by each of the cities on the green power challenge; and updates on the ferry and parks situation.
- She attended the March 19th municipal parking lot steering committee meeting and they had some very preliminary drawings of what could happen on that lot. The engineers will refine the drawings and bring something back at a future meeting.
- March 19th she and Helen Price-Johnson (Island County Commissioner) attended the joint meeting of the Design Review Board (DRB) and the Island County Historic Reserve Committee (HRC), in which they are working with Larry Kwarsick, Mark Preiss and Jeff Tate on the design guidelines. She and Helen are meeting regularly to discuss issues of mutual concern.
- There will be a Council Workshop on Friday, April 3rd as noted at the bottom of this March 24, 2009 Agenda.

AUDIENCE INPUT

Gary Piazzon, Coupeville, thanked all the people involved in getting channel 10 back on line. He thanked the Council for hiring Cathy d'Almeida and expressed his concerns about climate control. He urged Council to support the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition (item number 2 on the agenda). He discussed energy conservation efforts and the effects industry has on us; our responsibilities to protect our planet; and a book called *The Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth*. Saturday, March 28, 2009 is the 3rd Annual Earth Hour and he encouraged everyone to turn of your lights for one hour from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

PRESENTATION

Island County Economic Development Council Annual Update - Sharon Hart

Sharon Hart, Executive Director for Island County Economic Development Council (EDC), gave update on what they have been doing. The EDC is set up to assist businesses, to offer their expertise; and they work with Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED). Their starting block is to help develop businesses plan to stay open and be successful. Their most visible business promotion is the Uniquely Whidbey Biz Expo, which is held every October, and 2008 was very successful. EDC works with the schools and WorkSource and provides classes on how to start a business and tune up your résumé. She attends the RTPO and COG meetings and they are working with the Tourism Committee. EDC has been involved on the Washington State Ferry (WSF) mitigation committee and worked on the plan; and she thanked the Town for acting as the lead on the grant. They have been working with the streamline sales tax (SST) to ensure that the sales tax is being properly distributed to the correct areas. They continue to work with business recruitment and their largest recruitment case has been Waste Management (WM) with their relocation to Oak Harbor, with more than 119 jobs targeted at start up.

DISCUSSION**Phytoremediation Pilot Project**

Rex Porter distributed copies of a handout, Ebey's Prairie Water Quality Improvement: A Phytoremediation Project Proposal and explained the proposal. The background is that the Ebey's Landing outfall conveys impaired surface waters into Admiralty Inlet. Project financial partners with the Town of Coupeville would be Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) and Island County Health Department (ICHD); and Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) is also supporting the project. The project supports the outcomes of the Central Whidbey storm water and waste water projects investigating water quantity and quality for potential agricultural reclamation and reuse on Ebey's prairie.

In order to remediate the water quality impairment project partners propose implementing a phytoremediation pilot project on Ebey's Prairie. Phytoremediation is a proven plant based method of remedying existing poor quality water conditions by root-based uptake of contaminants, such as Ebey's Prairie fecals and nitrates. On Ebey's Prairie it is anticipated that this would be achieved by planting native willow trees and poplar trees; which would be periodically trimmed to meet any view shed height standards. Phase 1: Test Plantings: This phase involves implementing the first phase of a multi-phase phytoremediation project during 2009 and consists of: 1) Test tree plantings; 2) Pilot project planning and scoping. Phase 2: Pilot Project: This phase involves implementing the phytoremediation pilot project. Funding commitments are being put in place from ICHD and Island County MRC. National Park Service or other prairie land would serve as the project location and the land is also a project resource. Project site dimensions would be approximately 20 ft. wide by 300 ft. long. The pilot project tasks are: 1) Project design; 2) Pilot project implementation; 3) Project management.

Mr. Porter explained the project proposal and asked the Town Council to consider supporting the project with matching funds of \$20,000; and to become partners with the Ebey's Reserve community, including National Park Service, MRC, ICHD, WICD and its other partners.

Mayor Conard explained that the reclaimed water feasibility study could go three ways: 1) as irrigation to the prairie; to recharge and pump reclaimed water into the aquifer; or treat and pump the reclaimed water into the Sound. She explained that through a budget revision the Town could come up with \$20,000 towards this project. Council agreed to discuss this further at the Council Workshop on April 3, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS**Approve contribution to Sustainable Whidbey Coalition**

Mayor explained that Sustainable Whidbey Coalition (SWC) has formalized in structure as the Island County Climate Change Coalition. The Island County Council of Governments (COG) has agreed to allow the SWC to function under the umbrella of the COG; and the COG will make grant applications to support the SWC. The goal of the SWC is to act as a hub for information and resources related to sustainability, to provide professional education to public entities, provide technical support for collaborative projects and provide a link to the COG on sustainability issues. The SWC has had the services of a volunteer coordinator/facilitator but they would like to enter into a contract with a consultant to provide these services. The SWC steering committee is hopeful that grant funding will be available to support the SWC consultant as well as the coordinators that each city has on staff for climate protection and sustainability. To sustain the initial work, she suggested that each government contribute an amount to support the first efforts, as follows: \$2,000 from Langley; \$3,000 from Coupeville; \$5,000 from Oak Harbor;

and \$10,000 from Island County. The \$3,000 contribution from Coupeville could be covered in a budget revision, later this year.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the contribution of \$3,000 for the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition, payable to Island County Council of Governments. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Conard called for a short recess at 7:55 pm and reconvened at 8:05 pm.

Approve Community Garden Project

Mayor Conard explained that volunteers from the Coupeville Garden Club and WSU Master Gardener program have worked to develop a pilot Community Garden Program. The Council previously approved spending \$2,000 for this project and those funds will be used for fencing and a water tank. They propose to charge a \$30 annual fee for a garden plot. She provided copies of the proposed program and rules.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Hughes, to approve the Community Garden Project as proposed for 2009. The motion passed 4-0.

Authorize letter to State Parks and Legislators regarding Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks

Mayor Conard explained that Councilmember Dannhauer prepared a draft letter for Council to send to the Legislators and State Parks, in support of keeping the Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks open. Council discussed the draft, made some changes and agreed to a revised version of the letter that was prepared by Councilmembers Dannhauer and Hughes.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Clay, second by Councilmember Binder, to send the letter as amended to State Parks and Legislators regarding Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks. The motion passed 4-0.

Approval of March Claims and February Payroll Vouchers - *Staff recommends approval of the March 24, 2009 claims vouchers/warrants #21720 through 21805 for a total of \$179,627.29; and February payroll warrants #12340 through #12377 for a total of \$94,867.08.*

Several questions were asked and answered, and no changes were suggested.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes, second by Councilmember Binder, to approve the March 24, 2009, claims vouchers/warrants #21720 through 21805 for a total of \$179,627.29; and February payroll warrants #12340 through #12377 for a total of \$94,867.08. The motion passed 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Thomas provided a written report and explained that she attended the Washington Municipal Clerks Association (WMCA) Conference in Ocean Shores last week. It was a good conference and she would like to be more involved on the WMCA Education Committee next year.

Marshal Penrod provided a written report for February 2009. Deputy Kuschnereit will complete his field training next week. Marshal Penrod provided training for nurses at Whidbey General Hospital, on child abuse. Deputies Mirabal, Kuschnereit and himself participated in the X-52 DUI emphasis on March 20th. He will meet with Linda Eccles from CWCC to discuss the Memorial Day Parade and will have the Special Event Permit Application to Council for consideration at the next Council meeting. The 2000 Crown Victoria is out of service and

unrepairable so he is in the process of finding a new police car. The Law and Justice Meeting is tomorrow and they will be discussing Prosecutors Office and Sheriffs Office budget cuts. The 2009 Mussel Festival went very well. Deputy James Covert asked for your prayers as he will be going in for surgery next week; and he thanks the Town and community for all your support.

Mr. Bishop explained that there will be water main flushing on April 6th to the 16th, as follows: April 6th through the 9th (Monday through Thursday 8:00 am-4 pm); and the Fire Department will be hydrant testing April 13th through the 16th (Monday through Thursday 8:00 am-4 pm). A week ago he went on a tour with Jeff Howard (BHC is working on our biosolids study) of the Island County biosolids facility and the Langley composting facility; and came back with lots of good information. He has been reviewing plans for the Prairie Station development and received two building permits on the project. Well 2-87 is back on line. The bids on the road grader were opened yesterday and the high bid was \$4,653. He responded to a question about some signs in the park and on trails, that it was referring to weed abatement; which we don't have to do very often but must post signs when we do any treatment; and we are getting away from this type of treatment.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Hughes explained that April 23rd is the deadline to get your letters about the State Parks (Fort Ebey and Fort Casey) to the State Legislators and Parks Commission. Ebey's Reserve Trust has hired an education outreach coordinator, Emi Morgan; and they are working on this year's program for the Ebey's Conference; reeducating the community on the value of the Reserve; and finishing their five-year interpretive plan. The Trust Board will have their annual retreat on April 12th. She attended the CTED Workshop, A Short Course on Planning, which was hosted by the Town of Coupeville; and there was a good turnout. She reminded everyone to put food out on your porch or by your mailbox this Saturday, March 28th, for collection by the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts' Annual Food Drive.

Councilmember Binder explained that a grass roots committee has formed in Central Whidbey, (similar to 'Hearts & Hammers of South Whidbey') to help low income folks with home repairs and building things. Their first build date is May 30th and there will be flyers around town with more information. She attended the municipal parking lot meeting and looking forward to seeing some of the plans. She explained that the Tourism Committee does more than advertising, they also lobby for tourism and recently a group from Coupeville went to Olympia to discuss the ferries, State Parks on Whidbey, and bridge maintenance (Deception Pass bridge). They launched a campaign to adopt Penn Cove Mussels as the Washington State Mollusk. The Tourism Committee also sent a letter of support on the Fort Ebey and Fort Casey State Parks.

Councilmember Clay explained that the tree committee continues to meet and he expects to present a progress report pretty soon, to the Planning Commission or Town Council. He and Mayor Conard have been meeting with the Deputies union and are getting closer to completing the contract. He didn't attend the CTED workshop because he testified to the House Transportation Committee, on the flag stop legislation that hopefully, will be passed to the legislative floor. Island Transit continues to monitor the financial situation and the reduction in sales tax. The Town is working with Island Transit to take the next steps on the Park & Ride lot. Today, he attended a community meeting for a group that has been involved with the ferries and retail operations in Coupeville, and they discussed a lot of the information they heard from Mary Margaret Haugen at the Town Hall meeting last Saturday.

Councilmember Dannhauer has been attending the tree committee meetings and they've been discussing purposes and goals, heritage trees, new construction, native trees and vegetation. She attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on March 11th and they discussed the following: the trails are ready to map, but they just need the aerial map; the Rec Hall kitchen remodel; hedgerows and the best time for trimming; and clearing of ivy. She attended the meeting to form a parks district. She attended the CTED Workshop - A Short Course on Planning; the joint meeting of the DRB/HRC; the community green meetings. She's been attending the Library Building Committee meeting. She spoke about design guidelines for Oysterville, Washington, that stated that the historic relationship of the building to its site is a significant part of its character and vital to interpreting the history of the community; therefore structures should be retained on their original site; and relocation is not encouraged. The Whidbey Environmental Action Network (WEAN) is celebrating its 20th anniversary on March 28th with a potluck with music by the Prairie Ramblers.

DISCUSSION

Agenda for Town Meeting on April 30, 2009

Mayor Conard asked for topics to discuss at the Town Meeting on April 30th. She explained that there will be roundtable sessions; Cathy d'Almeida will discuss the Green Challenge. Topics that may be discussed are the tree ordinance and recycling. Mark Preiss may want to discuss the possible land swap. They discussed having an open forum with roundtables and agreed to discuss this further at the April 3rd workshop.

Vacancies/Reappointments to Commissions and Boards

Mayor Conard explained that there are some vacancies on commissions and boards, that will be coming up this year. She has contacted everyone whose term expires this year and some are interested in being reappointed. She plans to do the same process as last time with advertising the upcoming positions, interviewing all applicants and Council confirming the recommendations. Councilmember Dannhauer asked if Council could have more information on the applicants, and she would like to discuss the process at the April 3rd Council Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

MAYOR:

Judy A. Thomas, Clerk Treasurer

Nancy Conard, Mayor