

CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

March 12, 2009

As I prepare to leave town for several days, I wanted to provide the Council with this brief update report. I will be back in the office on Monday afternoon but will be checking my e-mail while I am gone. Also, please keep in mind that Bill Bloor and Teresa Pierce will be available if you need anything while I am gone.

We are very excited about the meetings next week with the AIA consultants. This is a great opportunity to access a team of urban planning professionals who will combine their expertise with ideas from the community to prepare design plans that can help shape the visual appearance of our city over the next several years. Please take advantage of this expertise and get actively involved in the discussions next week. The public presentation on Wednesday evening should be very interesting.

Earlier this week the Council was copied on a letter sent to Jim Jones regarding the efforts by the County Sheriff to establish a new 911 communications center. Attached is a response received from the Sequim Police Chief to my letter. Although we should always look for ways to enhance our emergency communications capabilities, a lot of planning is required before we embark on a new project of this scope. This planning should include a comprehensive analysis of current and future costs related to a new facility particularly in light of the major financial problems all of us are facing. However, for some reason, it appears that this new project is moving forward very quickly without the required planning effort. The Police Chief Gallagher and Fire Chief McKeen will attend a meeting on the 911 communications center in Sequim this Friday so we should have additional information to share with the Council in the coming week.

Unfortunately, we have not started 2009 off in a positive way in terms of local sales tax collections. As noted in the attached report, our sales tax revenues for the first two months decreased 25% and we budgeted only a 9% decrease. Although this report only represents two months of collections, it signals a trend, which is cause for major concern. As previously reported to the Council, we plan on having a first quarter budget review and discussion next month. If sales tax revenues and other revenues do not improve by this time, we may need to implement additional reductions to the 2009 city budget. In the meantime, at this week's staff meeting we agreed to postpone the hiring process for most city positions that are currently open. In addition, we will be taking a close look at retirements scheduled for 2009 and consider the impact of not filling these positions until financial conditions improve. I will continue to keep you posted and welcome your comments on this issue.

This week I met with Gary Cohn and it appears that the School District's budget looks even more challenging than the City's budget since they are seriously impacted by the State's financial problems. The School Board is planning on meeting during the next several months to make some final decisions on how they will handle the budget shortfalls.

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City Manager's Weekly Report

March 12, 2009

Page 2

On a more positive note, the ground breaking for the new physicians clinic on Front Street went this well and the developers were very complimentary of the support that they have received from city staff including Mark Madsen, Glenn Cutler and Nathan West. With this project and the Gateway project to be completed in the near future, hopefully this will create some new synergy for additional public and private improvements in this very important area over the next 2-3 years.

Recently Councilmember Kidd and I met with a Chamber representative to discuss current efforts to attract Twilight visitors to our community. While the Chamber has coordinated certain Twilight activities with the Forks Chamber, it appears that the City could be doing more to support this economic development opportunity. Therefore, we are planning a follow up meeting with the Chamber, Economic Development Council and representative from Forks to discuss ways we can support each other to maximize the impact from current and future Twilight visitors. Please let me, or Councilmember Kidd, know if you would like to be involved in these discussions.

-Kent Myers

From: "Robert L. Spinks" <rspinks@ci.sequim.wa.us>
To: "Steve Romberg" <Sromberg@cityofpa.us>, "Phil Arbeiter" <arbeiter@centur...>
Date: 3/10/09 6:10 PM
Subject: RE: Letter from City Manager Kent Myers

CC: "Sheri Crain" <SCrain@ci.sequim.wa.us>, "Alice Hoffman" <AHoffman@co.cla...>
Steve -

Thanks for the copy of City Manager Myers letter supporting the concept of a Joint Emergency Operations (EOC) and 9-1-1 Center. I think everyone also shares the concern associated with any project that could cost any of the many city, county and related emergency service agencies additional dollars in a time of revenue constriction.

I would also mention that, I don't see how costs can be maintained at their current level when talk about minimum system needs, equipment replacement and planning for future system and service capabilities are added into the discussion.

Clallam County has not had a comprehensive or integrated plan to address all of the facets of 9-1-1 services and dispatching. Many, many locations across the country have used a multi-agency inter-governmental organization to roll 9-1-1 services; dispatching; police and fire records management systems (RMS); radio equipment leasing (for police and fire); mobile data terminals and system service; as well as radio maintenance and technician services all under the umbrella of one specialized and technologically competent organization.

Another alternative to explore would be the creation of a junior taxing district to handle these same services; that would provide a base level of funding through a small property tax, combined with the other currently used revenue sources. The member agencies might even see a reduction in cost through this type of arrangement.

By expanding the current user base to include Jefferson County, there are some additional economy in scale benefits to be realized. In the case of Port Townsend PD, their current dispatch bill is in the range of \$200,000 annually . . . a cost that could be substantially reduced with a multi-county Center.

If we look at a two-county 9-1-1 agency that provides one-stop shopping for all of our radio, dispatch, RMS and associated equipment and maintenance needs, we probably see much greater service, uniform equipment and better interoperability as well as uniformity in purchases, system capability and training. That all translates into police agencies concentrating on policing and fire agencies concentrating on firefighting and aid services - and a 9-1-1 Center providing the technical and specialized services that police and fire do not have the expertise, time nor resources to manage on our own.

Having operated in environments where such stand alone 9-1-1 Centers operate, this is neither a new concept nor one which concerns me with cost, because at the end of the day we can create a much more robust 9-1-1 and radio system, add data services to it and either maintain current costs or reduce the growth rate of those costs, which we will all individually face at much higher levels of investment if we continue

to individually hack away at bits-n-pieces of a problem that needs a truly coordinated plan.

The current discussion involving the locating of a new EOC in the Carlsborg area with a new facility to house a true inter-governmental 9-1-1 Center seems viable and worthy of additional exploration, especially if the construction project meets the shovel ready requirements to receive federal funding and thus avoid any burden to local agencies.

The additional benefit of a stand alone intergovernmental agency to run 9-1-1 services is that it also affords the major funders and their elected officials a key oversight and management position, while allowing the advisory board made of appointed officials to provide the technical and user level input to a much more representative group of elected city, county and special district officials.

I look forward to the evolution of this discussion and look to Sheriff Benedict to take a key leadership role in leading the investigation of a new long-term vision for 9-1-1 and dispatching services on the Peninsula. Having said that, I know that everyone and every agency has appreciated the leadership and cost-effective services that Pen-Com, as a division of the Port Angeles Police Department has provided over the years and continues to provide.

Bob

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"Personal Attention to Our Community"

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Romberg [mailto:Sromberg@cityofpa.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 5:24 PM
To: Phil Arbeiter; Patricia Hutson; Jeff Baysinger; Glen McDaniel; Robert L. Spinks; Dan McKeen; Jeff Christopher; Terry Gallagher; Jim Johnson; Jon Bugher; Steve Vogel; Bill Benedict; Ben Pacheco; Rod Charles; Camille Scott; Mike Powell; Andy Axelson; Corkey McKeown; Bill Lyon
Cc: Sheri Crain; Alice Hoffman; Bob Martin; Dan Flynn; Patti Morris
Subject: Letter from City Manager Kent Myers

Attached please find a letter that I have been asked to forward from Port Angeles City Manager Kent Myers.

Steve

**CITY OF PORT ANGELES
SALES TAX COLLECTION
FOR THE YEARS 2001 - 2009**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% OF CHANGE 2009 TO 2008	% OF CUM. CHANGE 2009 TO 2008	% OF BUDGETED AMOUNT COLLECTED
JANUARY	173,752	161,272	174,430	178,032	247,162	234,903	231,548	243,360	166,448	-31.60%	-31.60%	5.69%
FEBRUARY	197,447	223,165	246,278	249,278	307,097	312,566	346,824	364,870	289,270	-20.72%	-25.07%	9.89%
MARCH	184,918	163,468	158,314	178,522	204,220	218,254	220,140	228,700		-100.00%	-45.55%	0.00%
APRIL	140,727	154,502	162,771	164,351	212,993	228,992	227,295	222,052		-100.00%	-56.97%	0.00%
MAY	199,467	210,911	191,781	244,411	241,803	287,127	283,901	277,460		-100.00%	-65.90%	0.00%
JUNE	162,880	166,887	181,186	206,286	183,331	240,910	238,605	239,989		-100.00%	-71.09%	0.00%
JULY	181,113	182,597	207,573	199,038	211,961	278,356	272,545	240,484		-100.00%	-74.92%	0.00%
AUGUST	210,704	210,614	269,840	255,574	288,715	329,053	349,815	310,367		-100.00%	-78.58%	0.00%
SEPTEMBER	212,750	204,051	248,395	251,681	249,472	272,761	266,440	278,097		-100.00%	-81.05%	0.00%
OCTOBER	204,366	229,711	212,420	397,754	261,485	285,185	312,125	249,554		-100.00%	-82.84%	0.00%
NOVEMBER	221,319	228,825	261,684	306,472	283,998	316,669	328,902	299,540		-100.00%	-84.58%	0.00%
DECEMBER	188,913	178,136	194,102	224,035	236,871	249,921	258,338	246,911		-100.00%	-85.76%	0.00%
TOTAL	2,278,356	2,314,139	2,508,774	2,855,435	2,929,106	3,254,697	3,336,478	3,201,382	455,718	-85.76%	-85.76%	15.58%
BUDGET						3,054,597	3,135,023	3,185,023	2,925,023		91.37	



March 6, 2009

Sonya Tetnowski
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
2851 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363

RE: Elwha Valley Access Road

Dear Sonya:

This serves to respond to your February 3, 2009 letter requesting City support for the Elwha River Road. I have reviewed the relevant issues with Public Works & Utilities Department staff who agree that there can be mutual benefits in the timely construction of this road.

It is our understanding that the Lower Elwha Tribe is now considering completing the work in three phases, with the first phase in 2009 being a construction access in support of Elwha Restoration mitigation work.

As you have requested, City staff and I will continue to work with you and Lower Elwha Tribe staff to identify and address those concerns that would eventually be spelled out in an agreement between the City and the Tribe (and perhaps Clallam County as well). A list of the most important ones will include:

1. The dimensions of the road cross section, including addressing the Olympic Discovery Trail along side it.
2. Ownership and maintenance of the road.
3. Protection and maintenance of the City's existing electrical, communications, and both potable and manufacturing/industrial water lines.

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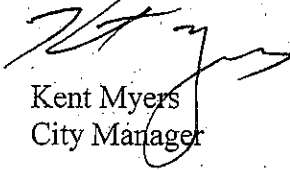
Elwha Valley Access Road

Page 2

The City looks forward to assisting the Tribe in getting this long-awaited project completed. While there are still design issues to be worked out, and the necessary discussion on the wording and approval of an agreement to allow use of affected City property, I am confident that we can address these in a timely manner.

If you have questions, please contact Glenn Cutler, Director of Public Works & Utilities at either gcutler@cityofpa.us or 360-417-4800.

Sincerely,



Kent Myers
City Manager

cc City Council
Glenn Cutler, Director of Public Works & Utilities
Steve Sperr, City Engineer