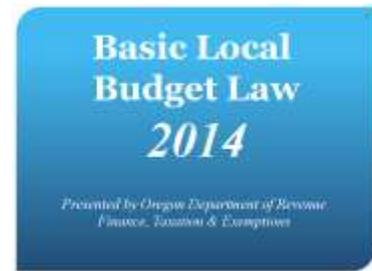


Friday April 24, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone! Wow, it's been a very busy spring week. Monday afternoon Finance Director Ron Harker and I (mostly Ron) provided a budget orientation for new(er) Councilors and new(er) budget committee members to provide an overview of the budget process and Oregon State Local Budget Law. Ron reviewed a power point presentation prepared by the Oregon Department of



Revenue and is used in their all day training around the state. While we narrowed the focus to be shared in 90 minutes, I think it was an effective tool to provide folks with an overview at the “higher level” and will allow them to go into the budget meetings with an idea of what to expect, as well as what their role in the process is. We had a great turnout, and special thanks to Councilors Brandt, Marks, McDonald and Kaser for attending with our new Budget Committee members Bob Scott, Sam Hollenbeck and Elias Minaise. Special thanks to Ron Harker too for embracing the budget preparation process in a way that has made the overall process much more efficient from a staff perspective. I’m sure Ron will continue to make the budget document more understandable and a more effective communications tool. After all, budgeting is fun!

Tuesday I attended the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce Board meeting. I provided their Board with an update on Council’s recently adopted goals and the Urban Renewal projects we plan to complete this summer in the downtown area and the Highway 138 Corridor project. Board members were very supportive of the direction Council is providing through its goals and are looking forward to the improvements that are coming to the core of our community. Obviously everyone is a little apprehensive about the construction disruption, but all were generous in their support of the end product.

Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. John VanWinkle and I attended the bi-weekly Chamber/Legislator conference call to discuss items of concern from our legislators, our Chamber and those of us who attend the meetings regularly. There are a number of bills that concern the City and cities in general around local government contacting regulations and minimum wage bills. At this time, most of the bills are in the “rules” committee and it is unclear where they will end up. We have taken a position in opposition to more restrictions in public contracting and are just tracking wage and hour and land use bills. We greatly appreciate our Representatives and Senators for taking the time to conference with us every other week and keep us posted on what is going on in the Capitol.

Thursday Nikki and I met with the Lions Club at Councilor McDonald's invitation and presented updated information on the Highway 138 Corridor Project and its connection to our Oak/Washington Project and other future projects in the area. ODOT now has a website with updated area information and aerial views of the project that can be found at www.roseburg138.com if you want to start following their progress. Once again, this is a very supportive local group that does a lot in the community and is very receptive to the work that will be occurring and the investment in our community.

At your last Council meeting you requested an update on the "Veterans Home". On Wednesday afternoon I spoke with Mr. Cameron Smith, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs in Salem. Mr. Smith indicated Roseburg is still next up for what will be the third Veterans Home in the State of Oregon. He indicated 65% of the funding is dependent on the Federal Government, and that as of yet, new housing construction is not being funded at as high a priority as rehabbing existing facilities. They have a funding request into rehab the housing project that was built in the Dalles, which they believe would be a higher priority, but are still pursuing an open funding application on our site. I have attached a letter dated April 21, 2015, directed to Speaker of the House Representative Kotek and Senate President Senator Courtney that Mr. Smith forwarded to me. I will be happy to update you orally at your meeting Monday as well. There will be little additional information, but we can put the information on the public record in response to your last request.



An email received from Toby Barnett who recently visited Roseburg sent us a link to his video taken with a drone. You can go find the video on our City website at: <http://www.cityofroseburg.org/visitors/>.

Have a great weekend and I will see you at the Monday's Council Meeting.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Veterans' Affairs

700 Summer St NE

Salem, OR 97301

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www.oregon.gov/odva

April 21, 2015

The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Peter Courtney, Senate President
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Update on Oregon Veterans' Homes

Dear Speaker Kotek and Senate President Courtney,

ORS 408.385, enacted in 2011, directs the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to establish a third Oregon Veterans' Home in Roseburg in addition to the two facilities authorized by law in 1995. The statute also authorizes ODVA to seek federal grant funds from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) to help construct the facility.

As an update, ODVA submitted a USDVA State Home Construction Grant in 2012 to build a third veterans' home in Roseburg. To date, we have not received approval for the federal funding as USDVA has largely prioritized its annual construction budget to implement Life/Safety projects and renovations in existing veterans' homes over new construction projects.

Until federal funding is available for a third veterans' home, ODVA remains focused on standing up our second facility in Lebanon and continuing to provide the best in care at the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles. With the recent approval by the Joint Ways and Means Committee, we will also be submitting a USDVA State Home Construction Grant this year to modernize and update our facility in The Dalles.

Also in 2011, the Legislature directed ODVA to contract for a study to review the landscape and needs of aging veterans across Oregon and funded the study this biennium. ODVA recently submitted to the Legislature a "*Nursing Care Facility Needs Assessment Report*" prepared by The Rede Group and Agnew Beck Consulting as a conclusion to the 2011 legislative direction. The full report is available at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/odva/INFO/docs/Pubs/ODVA%20Final%20Report.pdf>

The consultant's recommendations highlighted the estimated 1,800 Oregon veterans in skilled nursing care and high level strategies to ensure their needs are met both in our veterans' homes and in private and non-profit facilities across the state.

In addition to care provided in our facilities, we are working with partners to increase options for veterans to receive care in their community. There is currently legislation in Congress (Veterans Access to Extended Care Act – H.R. 1369/S. 739) that would give USDVA the authority to enter into Provider Agreements with not for profit and for profit skilled nursing facilities across Oregon.

This is an essential strategy given the realities of limited funding in USDVA construction budgets, the existing USDVA construction backlog, and the fact that we only reach about 62% occupancy for all existing licensed nursing beds in Oregon.

It also gives me great pleasure to share with you that Mary Jaeger joined ODVA's team this spring as our Aging Veteran Services Director. Mary previously served as the state's Long Term Care Ombudsman; she is a passionate advocate for seniors and will help us creatively and more broadly address veterans' needs not just in skilled nursing, but across the continuum of care for their health, wellness and economic security as they age.

As Oregon veterans, we are four generations strong and served in uniform here at home, on humanitarian missions around the world, and on the battlefield in five major wars. It is not lost on me that our veterans of Vietnam, Korea and World War II all stepped up to help catch and support me and my fellow recent veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. There is no question that we will return the honor and stand up to serve the generations of veterans who came before us.

Thank you for your continued support of Oregon's veterans and please don't hesitate to reach out if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cameron Smith
Director