

RE: Follow-up to my questions from last Tuesday's Council Meeting

Subject: RE: Follow-up to my questions from last Tuesday's Council Meeting
From: "Shelly Badger" <shellyb@ci.yelm.wa.us>
Date: Mon, 29 Jan 2007 15:54:03 -0800
To: "Steve Klein" <srklein@fairpoint.net>

Steve, see below for responses to your questions. Thank you for your patience in my reply.
Shelly

Shelly Badger, Yelm City Administrator

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

From: Steve Klein [mailto:srklein@fairpoint.net]

Sent: Monday, January 15, 2007 5:37 PM

To: Shelly Badger

Subject: Follow-up to my questions from last Tuesday's Council Meeting

Hello Shelley,

I would like to get answers to a few of the questions I posed

last week at the City Council session:

1. Does the City of Yelm have a contract with Thurston Highlands for the

SW Aquifer Project? The City of Yelm has an agreement with Thurston Highlands Associates allowing access to the property for the SW Yelm aquifer study.

2. Does the City of Yelm have a pro-rata contract with Thurston

Highlands for the SW Aquifer Project? As stated previously in City staff reports to the City Council, this will be determined from the Thurston Highlands impact analysis completed during the Environmental Impact Statement and stated as a condition of the Conceptual Master Plan.

3. If, so, what is the pro-rata share of each party? See response to question #2.

4. If no contract exists, how and when will that be determined? See response to question #2. The EIS and Conceptual Master Plan conditions are anticipated to be completed in late 2007.

And other questions that I have:

5. What is the City of Yelm's budget for water for the next 10 years

(i.e. water rights, studies)? The City's water budget is comprised of operation/maintenance of the present system AND dollars for capital improvements necessary to support the city and its urban growth area. The 2007 budget for O & M is \$1,304,057; annual debt service is \$296,643; capital improvements (which includes projects, water rights investigation and water rights acquisition) \$716,712; capital reserve \$564,788. We anticipate that this budget will grow annually at the rate of 3-5% range in the next 5-year period.

Every 6 years, the City of Yelm completes a Comprehensive Water Plan which identifies projects needed for the upcoming 6-year period based on the City's expected needs. This improvement program, as well as anticipated O & M needs, is used to set monthly water rates and connection fees to allow the City to undertake the necessary work for the water utility. The current Comprehensive Water Plan is up for renewal in 2008.

6. How much money are you allowed to spend on the current SW Aquifer Study? The current contract with Golder is authorized at \$550,003.

7. On future studies? The nature and need for future studies is based on what we discover as we advance thru our technical studies. Based on this factual information, there may be a need for additional technical work to understand how the withdrawal of water from the SW Yelm aquifer impacts the area. At that time, a budget for this work would be determined.

8. How is that allotted? The City sets aside a portion of each new water hookup for capital improvements. These improvements include both facilities that are needed as Yelm grows and dollars necessary to obtain new water rights.

9. How much money has been budgeted for the joint mitigation to come

with the City of Olympia, City of Lacey

& the Nisqually Tribe? Until all the cities complete their individual impact analysis and mitigation plans, it is difficult to understand fully where joint mitigation opportunities exist. As this information becomes available, the watershed partners will discuss where joint mitigation makes sense and each jurisdiction's appropriate share.

Thanks so much for your time.

Steve Klein