



## MAYORS CORNER NOVEMBER 2017

**Auditor's Report.** The auditor completed her work at Town Hall. Her written report will be submitted by December 31. In discussing the audit experience, she was very complimentary of the work of our treasurer, Katie Misfeldt. Katie has worked to ensure that standard accounting practices replace some of the non-standard practices that had become part of our accounting system over the years. The simplification of our system makes it much more transparent and easy to use. The auditor had some additional ideas on how to enhance the streamlining. If we continue to upgrade our system, the auditor felt she would only have to come for one day next year instead of two. A nice savings for us. Thank you Katie.

**Solar Power Proposal.** A workgroup of councilors and Fred Phillips (in his engineering capacity) met with Kyle White from "Sunworks" to review a proposal for installing solar panels at the sewer plant and at town facilities in the enterprise zone on Plum Creek Drive. The workgroup will review and research the proposal and make a recommendation to the Council.

**Water Bottling Contract Negotiation.** William Risser has a potential investor and asked the town to consider a longer-term contract with Swell Technologies. A workgroup has been formed of Councilors and several residents that have been involved in former water bottling contract negotiations: Sara Beck, Roger Hayden, Dan Murphy, and Jana Goodman. As we look at the new contract proposal, our goal is a fair, equitable and profitable agreement for both the town and Swell Technologies. We aim to create a good business climate for Swell Technologies, protect the town's resources, and ensure that both parties profit from the venture. We are reviewing the entire contract as well as the spring flows and usage demands. Currently, the draft is in the hands of our attorney for refinement.

**Senator Jeff Merkley.** The Mayor, Superintendent of Schools and Town Recorder met with Senator Jeff Merkley to discuss issues facing isolated rural incorporated towns including high utility rates and the need for grants to enhance old water and sewer infrastructures, support to the Forest Service beyond fire-fighting so that campgrounds and programs could attract people to the area. In addition, we highlighted the natural resources focus of the charter school including the development of the fish hatchery and allied programs like mushroom growing.

**Grants Steering Committee.** Representatives from the school, The Butte Falls Community School Partnership and the Town met to discuss effective grant writing for our projects in the Town. It was felt that a registry of local grants would be valuable to develop an awareness of the grants being written, support each other with letters of recommendations, etc., and inform each other of grant opportunities. The group will meet quarterly. The next meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Feb at 4:30 at The Landing. All engaged in local grant writing are welcome.

Linda Spencer, Mayor

The Town of Butte Falls