

Mayor's Corner

March 2018

Weyerhaeuser land acquisition. A meeting was held on February 8th to brainstorm ideas for acquiring land from Weyerhaeuser for the Town of Butte Falls. Attending were Mayor Linda Spencer, Recorder Lori Paxton, Grant Writer Janice Schultz, Oregon Governor's Office Alex Campbell, Business Oregon Marta Tarantsey, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy Paul Benson.

We will be applying for grants to acquire the falls property before Weyerhaeuser harvests it in 2020. A letter will be going out to everyone in the town and fire district asking for statements of 50 words or less giving your views on why it is important for the town to acquire the falls property. The statements will be submitted with the grant application in support of the acquisition. In addition, the Mayor, and the representative from the Governor's office will be traveling to Weyerhaeuser headquarters to discuss the acquisition of the property. We are also exploring the possibility of State or County park status.

We are seeking to acquire, through other grants, the railroad right-of-way along Truck Road, the land in the Enterprise Zone on Plum Creek Road, and additional acreage for the cemetery.

Grant for repair of roads. We have received a grant of \$50,000 from ODOT for the resurfacing and repair of Fee and Pine Streets. Fred Phillips submits a request for the ODOT grant yearly and we usually receive a grant about every three years. There are specific criteria for roads that can be submitted for the grant.

Wood Angels. A special "Thank You" to Lone Rock Timber and Hancock Forestry for donating wood to our Butte Falls area community firewood project. Several volunteers are working at cutting, splitting, delivering and stacking wood. During the first month in operation 6 loads of firewood were delivered. If you are in need of wood please contact Leah Wattenburger or Paul Brewer. The Community Wood Project is for the elderly, people on fixed incomes, people of poverty, people with disabilities or anyone just getting by. If you are interested in volunteering for this project contact Leah Wattenburger or Sara Beck at 541-865-3684. A special "Thanks" to Nancy Stockton for being the town council liaison to this project.

Skunks and other small wildlife. The town seems to be experiencing a bloom in small wildlife (skunks, raccoons and rodents). Please do not encourage these animals. They are getting to be a problem for some households. Cover trash cans, feed pets inside and do not feed wildlife.

Seismic Rehabilitation Project. The town attorney Joe Zellerman reviewed "The Request for Proposals" document written by Lisa Marston our Project Manager at the Rogue Valley Council of Governments. Mayor Linda Spencer, Treasurer Katie Misfeldt, ZCS Engineering Jake Coppola and Project Manager Lisa Marston met to finalize the proposal. "The Request for Proposals" will go out for bid next week.

Opportunities to Serve. We have an opening for a Councilor on the Town Council to fill the position vacated by Carol Britt. It would be a 2-year term. We also have 2 openings on the Budget Committee for 2-year terms.

Respectfully,

Linda Spencer, Mayor

The Town of Butte Falls