

Mayor's Corner – June 2019

Welcome to Butte Falls Nathan and Misty Bailey, Ted and Tammie Pulliam, Earl and Barbara Hagy, and Kala Freeman.

Budget. The Budget was approved by the Budget Committee to be forwarded to the June Council meeting and will be considered on June 18. Budgets are all about how we spend our money which means the budget is about our priorities as we live our lives together in Butte Falls. My goals, as your mayor, are 1) to keep costs of town government down, 2) provide basic services and 3) provide an equitable salary for employees.

The biggest change to the budget this year is the proposal to institute a \$2.00 per household Public Safety Fee to sustain our Police Department. Other communities in the area have such fees. Shady Cove charges \$15 and has agreed to increase it to \$18 this year. Medford charges \$7.45, Rogue River \$5.00, Talent \$4.00 (Ashland \$1.50, Central Point \$1.00).

Weyerhaeuser Lands. Weyerhaeuser has engaged the Trust for Public Lands to procure for the town the 391 acres around the town and the triangle of land surrounding the cemetery on Obenchain Road. The Trust is in the process of locating and writing grants for the land acquisition. Due to grant cycles and the uncertainties of procuring the applied for grants it will most likely take 2-3 years to acquire the land. Weyerhaeuser wants no publicity until the deeds have been transferred. The acquisition remains uncertain until that point.

We are planning for the use of the land. We have set up several sub-committees to conceptualize next steps in each sector: School District, Forest Planning, Railroad Museum, Recreation Development, Residential Expansion, Industrial/commercial development (water bottling plant), Cemetery, Marketing, Steering and Advisory Committee. If you would like to participate on any of the committees, let us know at the Town Hall.

We are planning a public meeting in the next couple of months to brief you on the land acquisition and to get your input on uses, and management structures for the land. It is all very exciting. Think of the possibilities. What would you like to see us do with the land?

Grant for Brush Truck. The Butte Falls Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department and the Town thank the Josephine County Foundation for a grant to fund the purchase of a much needed heavy-duty brush engine.

Seismic Retrofit of the Fire Hall. The project is ahead of schedule and proceeding smoothly. It is now scheduled to be completed on July 11.

4th of July Celebration. The celebration is shaping up. We have hired the band "Denim and Diamonds". The parade will start around 11am. If you would like to have an entry in the parade come sign up at town hall. We can also use more booths and more helping hands.

4th of July Fireworks. Only fireworks legal in the State of Oregon are permitted. They must be used in a place without flammable materials present (road or driveway). Water to put out fire must be nearby (hose, bucket).

Town of Butte Falls

Linda Spencer, Mayor,