

Port tackles pressing issues in proposed budget

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Port of Astoria staff proposed a \$15,455,434 budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year at the agency's first budget committee meeting Tuesday.

"The fiscal year 2015-16 budget (covering July 1 to June 30, 2016) empowers staff to evaluate the Port's most pressing needs, focusing on issues that will give the Port its best opportunities to support its existing customers while developing new sources of revenues," Executive Director Jim Knight said during his presentation Tuesday. "Building on the Port's 2010 Strategic Plan, this budget reflects that this is the time to strengthen our operational infrastructure, increase staff capabilities and position our organization to take advantage of new opportunities."

An electronic copy of the proposed budget is available with the online copy of the story at www.dailyastorian.com. The budget committee will take comments on it at its next meeting Tuesday, before likely approving it. The Port's budget officer would then post a notice of a budget hearing, currently scheduled for June 16, and post a summary of the approved budget in The Daily Astorian.

MORE INFO.:

The Port of Astoria's budget committee will meet Tuesday at the old Port offices, 422 Gateway Ave., to hear public comment on the budget and to approve it.

Budget before audit

The proposed budget comes out even as the audit for 2013-14 is being performed by Moss Adams, which had initially been trying to release it before the budget committee process started.

The Port's Financial Director Jim Grey said it's more likely the audit will come out near the end of May, after the Port's budget committee is scheduled to approve the budget. He said the current proposed budget is balanced and based off what the Port will likely take in and spend. The audit only affects the beginning fund balance.

"I haven't heard anything that indicated we were in a negative situation," Grey said.

The overall budget is 45 percent more than what's been projected for 2014-15, mainly because of an approximately \$5 million runway improvement project at the Astoria Regional Airport planned for this fiscal year, but put off until next. The project is mostly covered by grants

from the Federal Aviation Administration and Oregon Department of Transportation.

Investing in the Port

Port staff estimated between \$86 million and \$104 million in a "Master Capital Plan" ultimately needed to fix all the issues with its aging infrastructure. From there, staff whittled down the projects to a proposed \$11.2 million in capital improvements, split between medium and high priorities.

The high priorities made it into the proposed budget, which calls for \$6,346,113 in capital improvements.

More than three-quarters of that is for the airport project. The Port also proposes spending \$166,000 to remove obstructive trees from around the runways, also funded by an FAA grant.

The largest project beyond the airport is the \$436,000 proposed for dredging Slip 1, where log ships dock to take on timber from longshoremen and Astoria Forest Products.

The Port projects spending \$150,000 on Pier 3 stormwater treatment, although its master capital plan estimates the project costing \$6.5 million in total.

Employment at the Port

The Port's proposed budget included 82 positions, from the executive director down to part-time security staff.

Those positions translate to the equivalent of nearly 32 full-time jobs, according to the Port's budget, split between the central waterfront, property management, marinas, airport, boatyard, North Tongue Point, security and administration.

Port staff proposed a payroll of more than \$2 million, with benefits more than \$900,000.

The Port's proposed revenues and expenses for the 2015-16 fiscal year balance \$15,455,434, including several other major proposed expenditures:

- \$487,600 in Oregon Department of State Lands leases for lands near or over navigable waters.
- \$1.1 million on fuel and oil and another \$1 million on utilities.
- \$350,000 on the rent for North Tongue Point, which it has the lease for through 2019.
- \$473,000 on professional services, including \$230,000 on legal fees, up from the \$30,000 projected for 2014-15; and \$120,000 on auditors and accountants.
- \$33,000 on advertising and promotion. In previous years, it spent less than \$10,000.

Free soil test offered

SEASIDE — Clatsop County Master Gardeners are conducting a free Ph Test Soil Clinic from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Lyle's Garden and Pet Center, 725 Avenue J in Seaside.

Proper Ph levels insure the availability of nutrients to plants.

Bring one cup of garden soil placed into a clean glass jar with lid, or double bagged in a ziplock plastic bag, for analysis. Allow one hour for the test.

Directions for obtaining a proper soil sample can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/chksoil>

Wells Fargo holds contest for small businesses

Wells Fargo invites small business owners to enter a nationwide contest with a \$25,000 cash prize and business mentorship opportunities.

Entrants must submit a video up to 2 1/2-minutes long, or a maximum 600-word essay with a photo, responding to questions about their business.

Wells Fargo will select 25 finalists, and each will receive \$1,000 for their business. From that group, Wells Fargo will pick five grand prize winners, and each will receive \$25,000.

The contest runs through June 30. Winners will be announced in September. For rules, go to wellsfargoworks.com/project

'Eat Healthy' program is set for Tuesday

The American Association of University Women of Astoria present a program at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, in the Flag Room at the Astoria Public Library, 450 10th St. Julia Mabry, program manager for the Clatsop Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program, will discuss the results of a local research project, "Eat Healthy." The public is welcome.

A group of Clatsop County women participated in the project, taking pictures of things that help them eat

healthy, as well as things that didn't. Participants in the study, who came from all income levels, examined how their food choices are influenced by their friends and their grocery stores.

The women's stories about eating healthy for themselves and their families are an important piece of the puzzle of understanding chronic diseases, as well as part of understanding a community's food environment.

For more information call 503-325-4592 or 503-325-8024.

High-speed chase ends with arrest

By The Daily Astorian

An Astoria man was arrested in Seaside Monday night after taking law enforcement on a high speed chase that began on the beach, just north of Gearhart.

A Clatsop County Sheriff's Office reserve beach patrol officer spotted Timothy Leon Painter II, 36, driving a yellow Dodge Neon without a seatbelt on the beach. When the officer attempted to make a traffic stop, Painter took off southbound down the beach at 60 miles per hour, according to Sheriff's Office Sergeant Mike Smith.

Painter, who had a 34-year-old Hammond woman in the passenger seat, drove about two miles on the beach before exiting near Sunset Beach onto U.S. Highway 101. At that point, two Warrenton Police officers joined the pursuit, which reached 90 miles per hour, Smith said.

Seaside Police unsuccessfully place spike stripes. Painter then turned on Broadway Street in Seaside and struck another vehicle at

Avenue A and Holiday Drive, which injured the other driver, according to the charges filed against Painter.

Painter fled from his vehicle and was arrested on S. Columbia St. and Avenue S in Seaside. He was booked into Clatsop County Jail at 10:07 p.m. Monday.

He is charged with attempting to elude police, reckless driving, reckless endangering, felon in possession of a restricted weapon, possession of methamphetamine, driving while license is suspended and a hit and run felony.

The woman in the passenger seat has not been charged with any crime.

According to court records, Painter, a former Aloha resident, was convicted in 2013 of similar charges of eluding police, criminal mischief, criminal trespass, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle and assault related to an incident in Clatsop County in January 2010.

Painter is scheduled to appear in Clatsop County Circuit Court at 1:15 p.m. Tuesday for an arraignment on the new charges.

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Lease a New 2015 Prius c (Two) for \$179 a month for 24 months with \$1,170 down and \$1,999 due at signing. Due at signing costs include first month's payment, \$650 acquisition fee and \$1,170 down payment. Example based on model #1203. Base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price \$20,340. Monthly payments of \$179 total \$4,296. Net capitalized cost of \$19,385 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Lease end purchase option is \$15,255.00 • Lease a new 2015 RAV4 LE for \$179 a month for 24 months with \$2,020 down and \$2,849 due at signing. Due at signing costs include first month's payment, \$650 acquisition fee and \$2,020 down payment. Example based on model #4432. Base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price \$25,080. Monthly payments of \$179 total \$4,296. Net capitalized cost of \$23,115 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Lease-end purchase option is \$18,910.00 • Lease a New 2015 Corolla S Plus for \$179 a month for 24 months with \$1,299 down and \$2,128 due at signing. Due at signing costs include first month's payment, \$650 acquisition fee and \$1,299 down payment. Example based on model #1864. Base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price \$19,845. Monthly payments of \$179 total \$4,296. Net capitalized cost of \$18,490 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Lease end purchase option is \$14,486.85. • Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Offers cannot be combined with any other offers, vary by region and are subject to availability. Security deposit waived. Closed-end lease. \$350 disposition fee due at lease end unless customer purchases vehicle or decides to re-finance through Toyota Financial Services (TFS). Customer responsible for maintenance, excess wear and tear and \$0.15 per mile over 12,000 miles per year. To qualified Tier 1+ customers through TFS. Offers good in WA, OR, ID, and MT. For ID and MT state dealerships, a documentary service fee in an amount up to \$350 may be added to vehicle price. For Washington state dealerships, a negotiable documentary service fee in an amount up to \$150 may be added to sale price or capitalized cost. For Oregon state dealerships, a negotiable documentary service fee in an amount up to \$100 may be added to vehicle price. Oregon state dealerships not using an electronic vehicle registration system may only apply fees up to \$75 to vehicle price. Does not include taxes, license, title, processing fees, insurance, and dealer charges. See your local participating Toyota dealer for details. Must take retail delivery from dealer stock by 6/1/15.