

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR

PORT OF ASTORIA // AUDIT

## HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Review shows better financial growth, with room for improvement

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

**F**inancially, the Port of Astoria has much to celebrate, and much more work to do.

A recently released audit shows the Port improved its net financial position by more than \$1 million between July 1, 2014, and June 30, the agency's most recent complete fiscal year.

"We're seeing some positive trends here at the Port," said accountant Jim Lanzarotta from Moss Adams LLP, hired by the Port to perform several of the agency's audits, during an audit presentation at the Port Commission's Tuesday meeting.

The Port has now increased its net position three of the last five years, he said. New accounting standards put a damper on the Port's \$1 million increase in net position in fiscal year 2015, shearing \$477,714 off to account for pension liabilities in previous years. The Port's overall net position — assets minus liabilities — as of June 30 was just over \$20.1 million.

After losing money from operations for at least four fiscal years in a row, the Port of Astoria posted a \$588,000 operational profit on the fiscal year 2015 audit. Much of the gains came from Astoria Forest Products' expanded log-processing and -exporting operations on piers 3 and 1. The Port also significantly increased lease and rental income, such as the addition of Customs and Border Protection to its Pier 1 offices. And while marina revenues are flat, Lanzarotta said, there is a lot of room for growth there.

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Jim Lanzarotta



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria significantly increased its lease and rental income, including the addition of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in its Pier 1 office building. The Port of Astoria netted more than \$588,000 from operations in fiscal year 2015, much of it from Astoria Forest Products' log-processing and -exporting operations (below) on piers 3 and 1.

### Port of Astoria net financial position

Here's how the Port of Astoria's net position changed between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015:

Net operating revenues	\$588,118
Net non-operating revenues	\$97,260
Capital grants	\$359,068
Future pension obligations	-\$477,714
<b>Total net position, end of year</b>	<b>\$20.1 million</b>
Net position, beginning of year	\$19.6 million
<b>Difference (gain)</b>	<b>\$566,732</b>

Sources: Moss Adams LLP; Port of Astoria

EO Media Group graphic



## Council rejects new cell tower

Councilors side with forester who challenged Verizon project at Shively Park

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
*The Daily Astorian*

A new 150-foot Verizon Wireless communications tower is not compatible with historic Shively Park, the Astoria City Council agreed Tuesday night, siding with a forester who showed that the visual impact would be greater than Verizon and the city had originally portrayed.

The City Council's conclusion could potentially undo an agreement between the city and Verizon to move an aging communications tower off Coxcomb Hill near the Astoria Column. The deal involves a new tower the city and Verizon would share at Reservoir Ridge that would improve the city's emergency communications. Verizon, however, also wanted a monopoly at Shively Park to enhance wireless coverage on the South Slope and other neighborhoods.

"They still have their approvals for Reservoir Ridge. So, I mean, it's up to Verizon as to whether or not they continue on with the other tower," Brett Estes, the city manager, said.

Michael Connors, a Portland attorney who represents Verizon, declined to comment on the company's next steps.

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## Seaside principal ready to retire

Administrator, teacher spent 26 years in South County

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
*EO Media Group*

Seaside High School Principal Sheila Roley recently announced her plan to retire at the end of the 2015-16 school year, describing her time with Seaside School District 10 as a "fulfilling way to spend the past 26 years."



Sheila Roley

"I have learned something new every day," Roley wrote in her retirement request to Superintendent Doug Dougherty and the district's Board of Directors. "My opportunity to serve the students of the Seaside School District has filled me with joy, gratitude and humility."

The board formally accepted her resignation during a regular meeting Tuesday. Her retirement is effective June 30.

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## Cannon Beach seeks fire chief who can do a bit of everything

June timeline for hire 'is very doable' for board

By ANDREW TONRY  
*For EO Media Group*

CANNON BEACH — If everything goes according to plan, the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors hopes to hire and install a new Fire Chief by June.

The timeline, proposed at a work session Tuesday, leaves little room for error.

"I think its very doable," said interim Chief Jim Stearns, who will lead the search. "But it's going to be a very busy time in here."

The timeline also supposes that an ongoing effort to recall three board members — including the board president — does not derail the process.

The June 1 target date coincides with the conclusion of Stearns' six-month contract. Should a new chief fail to materialize in that time, Stearns said he would remain available.

"I'm not gonna walk off and leave you high and dry," Stearns told the board.

This will be Stearns' third time directing a chief's hiring. Before retiring as a full-time chief in Hermiston, Stearns

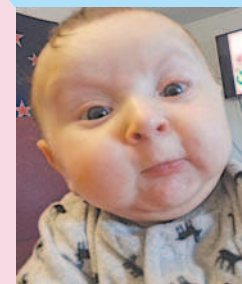
found his replacement. And in a situation similar to the one in Cannon Beach, Stearns led a search in Rogue River while acting as interim chief.

### A little bit of everything

In guidelines put forth by Stearns and echoed by the board, Cannon Beach's next fire chief will need to do a little bit of everything.

Since arriving in Cannon Beach in November, Stearns came up with a saying to describe the fire department's

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Enter your baby in The Daily Astorian's Cutest Baby Contest for 2015

If your baby was born between Jan 1st & Dec 31st of 2015, you can submit your newborn's picture either via email at classifieds@dailyastorian.com or drop by one of our offices in Astoria or Seaside and we can scan in the photo for you.

Deadline to enter is Tuesday, January 26th at 5:00 pm. Entries will be printed in The Daily Astorian on January 29th.



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