

Port: System at Tongue Point will cost \$60,000

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Knight said there is also renewed interest from Astoria Forest Products, which processes and stores logs on Pier 3 and transports them to Pier 1 for export, in helping with the system. The log exporter had initially seemed willing to help but broke off talks with the Port when issues around a requirement to use union labor to transport logs between the piers flared up.

Knight said Astoria Forest Products has started absorbing the cost of the "ghost riders" who ride in the passenger seat of log trucks as they travel between piers, a condition of labor agreements the Port has with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. The Port had been forced to subsidize the longshore labor to keep log exports rolling.

Astoria Forest Products uses private contractors to transport logs, but Knight said the company is looking into acquiring its own trucks, which longshoremen would drive.



The Daily Astorian/File Photo
Robert Evert, permit and project manager for the Port of Astoria, collects samples along Pier 2. The Port is required to have a stormwater treatment system after experiencing high amounts of copper in storm runoff into the Columbia River.

Cleansing shells

The Port contracted environmental consulting firm Maul Foster Alongi to design the stormwater system.

The plan is to create a bioswale with settling ponds to remove suspended solids from runoff, and a gabion cage filled with oyster, crab, clam and other shells to help filter out metals. Shells have a high concentration of calcium carbonate, which when released into water helps absorb and precipitate metals.

Ada Banasik, an environmental engineer with Maul Foster Alongi, told the Port Commission Tuesday she is researching whether dredge spoils sitting in mounds on Pier 3 can be used to build an embankment for the settling ponds. But the dredge spoils need to be tested for copper and how well the material will compact.

The project could cost around \$1 million if the Port can use the existing soils, she said, but much more if not.

North Tongue Point

The Port Commission approved two work orders Tuesday with Maul Foster Alongi. One, for \$24,600, will help complete engineering and bidding for the central waterfront project. Another, for \$20,000, will help pave the way for another stormwater collection system the Port recently learned it has to implement at North Tongue Point, also by the end of June.

Knight said the Port received notice mid-March that Tongue Point had received high copper readings during the same period of time as the central waterfront. Disparities between reports from the lab and to the state kept the problem unknown, he said, but placed an identical timeline on the Port to install stormwater treatment at Tongue Point.

The system at Tongue Point will cost about \$60,000, Knight said, and mostly revolve around improving the facility's catch basins with shells and other methods to keep metals from leaching into the river.

Seaside: Public safety is the city's No. 1 expense

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The reason is completion of work on North Holladay Drive.

"Next year we don't have a North Holladay project, so the amount of expenditure is going to go down by \$3.4 million," Winstanley said.

An improved economy has helped the city build up reserves, he said, and community development — building and planning departments — moved into the black a year ahead of schedule.

"Financially we're in much better shape," he said. "When the economy tanked in 2008, it caused significant problems not only for the private sector, but for the public sector also. We're back in a position where our reserves are pretty good and we don't have to worry if there's a downturn."

Public safety remains the city's No. 1 expense, Winstanley said.

The Seaside Police Department's proposed budget of \$3.4 million represents the largest portion of the \$4.4 million Public Safety total. Fire Department expenditures are about \$731,000, with lifeguard and courts costs completing the sum. The preliminary budget sets aside about \$225,000 for the Bob Chisholm Community Center Main Hall refresh, Winstanley said, with another \$80,000 of the project cost coming from the partnering Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

Capital projects

Two major capital projects loom on the city's horizon — the Avenue U Bridge and a proposed Seaside Civic and Convention Center renovation — but the impact will not be felt in the new year's budget.

Representatives of the con-

vention center went before the City Council in April with plans for a \$15 million upgrade to accommodate more guests and update facilities.

That renovation is not in the budget as councilors have yet to weigh in on the plan.

"They might say we're not prepared to do a renovate, in which case it doesn't require any budget adjustment," Winstanley said.

If the city does approve a project, costs could be paid "a number of ways," including a bond, he said.

The city is in the design phase to replace the Avenue U Bridge at an expected cost of about \$3.5 million, Winstanley said, as Seaside awaits responses for federal or state funding. "My experience is that a lot of times when the federal government starts passing down money, ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) says, 'If you've got a project ready to go, we've got some funding.'"

But, he added, "I don't know if they're going to give us any at all."

Other factors

The city has budgeted \$27,000 from its general fund for donations and contributions. Where those funds are headed will be the subject of future Budget Committee meetings.

While cigarette taxes generate \$7,000 in revenue and the city receives \$1,800 in liquor license fees, taxes from the city's three cannabis dispensaries will not be budgeted next year.

"The state of Oregon has been fairly clear on this," Winstanley said. "They're going to keep it all until they decide that they're going to pass some of it down. I'm going to wait for them to pass it down before I start budgeting money for it."

Help young kids get new clothes tonight

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Parents and Teachers Helping Students (PATHS) is sponsoring a fundraiser for the Warrenton Grade School Clothing Closet, featuring LuLaRoe clothing, from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the school, 820 S.W. Cedar Ave. Bring a gently used pair of tennis shoes for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate.

LuLaRoe is a California-made line of clothing that specializes in women's and girl's dresses, skirts, tops and leggings that are designed to be comfortable and classic, fitting every budget and body. Clothing can be purchased for the family, or to donate directly to the closet. Each purchase earns up to \$6 back.

The event also includes a photo booth, light refreshments and a fashion show.

Become a 'Smart Driver'

The Daily Astorian

AARP is holding a "Smart Driver" class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A in Seaside. Register through Clatsop Community College at 503-338-2408. The class includes a 45-minute break for lunch, and two short breaks. Those attending should come early to get the paperwork done.

Upcoming classes are: June 3 at Columbia Memorial Hospital Columbia Center Chinook Room, 2021 Marine Drive;

and July 20 at the Bob Chisholm Community Center. Register at 503-338-2408 for either class.

These courses are designed for seniors age 50 and older, but anyone can attend. Oregon state law provides for a discount on auto insurance premiums for completing this course.

The cost for the class is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for nonmembers, payable at the start of class with checks made payable to AARP.

For information, contact John Benson at 503-738-5925 or bensonsbend@gmail.com

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