

Housing: Some 500 housing units are in process in Warrenton

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A request for proposals for a consultant could go out by the end of October, with the goal of having someone on board by the end of the year or early next year. The county also plans to form a steering committee with representatives from the cities.

"I don't know where we'll end up dollar-wise on this, but I'm pretty confident the \$100,000 is more than enough to get this done," Moore said.

Moore acknowledged that most housing development will take place within city limits, not necessarily on county land, but he said it seems appropriate for the county government to spearhead this effort.

"Is the county part of the solution? Yeah, we are part of the solution."

Why?

For many city officials, the first question they asked when presented with the county's proposal was along the lines of: "I understand where you're coming from, but why?"

Many of Clatsop County's cities already have a sense of where they fall on the housing spectrum; they may have even completed extensive housing studies on their own. Many have or are considering implementing construction excise taxes to help fuel new housing development. Astoria recently completed a registry to track vacant houses and identify where housing could be reopened or created.

At an Astoria City Council meeting earlier this month, City Councilor Zetty Nemlow-ill wanted to know what Moore



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

This apartment complex under construction in Astoria is part of a growing effort by local developers to increase the amount of available housing in the area.

envisioned as the end product. "The result," she said. "Other than just another study that sits at City Hall."

Every city has one of those, said city officials across the county as they discussed the county's proposal. They have the study that, as Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer said, "sits on the shelf and nothing really comes of it." Or, said

Warrenton City Commissioner Tom Dyer, the studies that follow other studies and are "the same thing called something different."

In many ways Astoria and Warrenton are at completely opposite ends of the housing issue.

Kevin Cronin, Astoria's community development director, and Astoria Mayor Arline

LaMear say their city will likely look at existing buildings, houses that need some rehabilitation — or "adaptive reuse" — to make them available for renters or buyers, rather than new construction.

"I hope that we can get more new construction projects like what (developer) Joe Barnes is doing over above the (Astoria Recreation Cen-

ter)," Cronin said, pointing to a 32-unit apartment complex in the works on Astoria's South Slope. "But for the most part we're a built-out community."

In Warrenton, some 500 housing units are in process this year alone — either under construction or still in the permit and design review stages — and there is still more land available.

Bird's-eye view

But Warrenton and Astoria both decided to participate in the countywide study. City officials said no city has taken the county's full housing market and related issues into account. That lack of a bird's-eye view was what convinced many of the cities to sign on.

Even though Cannon Beach completed its own housing study last year, the City Council unanimously agreed to participate in the county study.

"All cities are in the same boat right now when it comes to affordable housing," said Jason Schermerhorn, the interim city manager for Cannon Beach. "It's not just a problem in this county, it's statewide. Being involved will help us have a broader idea on how to handle it."

"I look at the housing issue as not just a city of Astoria issue," Astoria City Manager Brett Estes said. "It's really a county issue and what can we all collectively be doing?"

After all, he said, there's "leakage" between the different cities, meaning people who work in one city might be trying to live in another, or might be forced to live outside the city they work in because of the lack of housing. Balensifer also made a similar point as the Warrenton City Commission discussed the agreement.

"For me it's, 'OK, we can look at Astoria but, really, what's the need for the whole area?'" Estes said. "And what's the availability for the whole area?"

Reporters Brenna Visser and Jack Heffernan contributed to this report.

Thompson: Results of internal investigation were revealed in executive session

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fellow commissioners, and County Manager Moore that has bubbled under the surface for several months.

Commissioner Scott Lee, the board's chairman, learned of the incident soon after it happened, though he did not disclose how. Lee then called an executive session in late July with other board members and Portland-based labor attorney Heather Martin. At the private session, the board decided to pursue an investigation and hire Jill Goldsmith of Workplace Solutions Northwest, a Portland mediation service, to conduct the probe.

Goldsmith interviewed the county employee who had allegedly been touched by Thompson, a witness to the incident, and a county employee who has a personal relationship with Thompson and is familiar with the commissioner's demeanor and concerns about the county manager. Thompson declined



Scott Lee

to be interviewed but submitted her account through an attorney.

The results of the internal investigation were revealed to commissioners during an executive session Wednesday night.

"Several staff have raised issues about county government with me," Thompson said in an email to The Daily Astorian. "They said they

feared retaliation if they went public. I now understand their fears of retaliation."

But Lee insists the internal investigation was a human-resources matter meant to ensure that county staff are protected from commissioners, who supervise the county manager and staff.

"It's outrageous that she would accuse me of making this issue politically motivated," Lee said. "I have been following the advice of county counsel."

Official role

The internal investigation found that Thompson was acting in her role as commissioner during the June 27 incident after a Red Cross meeting at Fort Clatsop in Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

After the Red Cross meeting, Thompson approached the county employee and expressed frustration with Moore. She also allegedly said that she "was the only commissioner on the board

who worked."

Thompson, according to the report, at one point became agitated about Moore, stepped toward the county employee and asked, "Do you know what he did?" As the county employee reflexively placed her hands up, Thompson allegedly placed her hands on the employee's hands or, according to the witness, upper arms near the shoulders. The county employee then took two to three steps back as Thompson vociferously repeated her question.

After untangling herself, the county employee asked Thompson what she was talking about. Thompson then allegedly expressed her belief that Moore had intentionally scheduled a meeting in May so that she would not be able to attend. The county employee described Thompson as upset and agitated during the conversation.

In the account Thompson provided through an attorney, the commissioner said she

has no memory of physically pushing anyone backward. "She is the first to admit she is sometimes loud — a character trait she attributes to her passion for the people of Clatsop County, to her blue-collar roots, and to her hearing loss. She is outwardly demonstrative. She sometimes talks with her hands or touches people during conversations (for example, she may place a supportive hand on someone's shoulder or she might touch someone's arm while making a point)."

'Appropriate decorum'

According to board rules, commissioners must commit themselves to "ethical, businesslike, and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as board members." The internal investigation concluded Thompson violated this policy.

Lee pointed to an incident in 2014 when he castigated former County Commissioner Dirk Rohne, now a

Port of Astoria commissioner. Rohne allegedly complained about staff and former County Manager Scott Somers to Portland-based labor attorney Akin Blitz.

"This is not the first time I've called out a commissioner for failing to understand how to do his or her job, in my opinion, and getting out of their lane with staff," Lee said. "It's a very big problem and it's been something that I take seriously."

David Kramer, Thompson's Salem-based attorney, questioned whether the board has the authority to investigate an independently elected official since that power is not specifically outlined in the county charter. He said the board's rules apply to conduct at board meetings, "but nothing you allege arguably relates to a board meeting."

Kramer called the internal investigation "likely politically motivated, and it undercuts the political independence of elected public officials."

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING		A - Charter Astoria/Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach											SEPTEMBER 14	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Celebrity Family Feud		20/20 Truth and Lies	"The Murder of Laci Peterson" (N)			KATU News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel	
3	KOMO	KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Celebrity Family Feud		20/20 Truth and Lies	"The Murder of Laci Peterson" (N)			KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel	
4	KING	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	American Ninja War	"Denver City Finals"	Chicago Fire	"Telling Her Goodbye"			KING 5 News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show	
5	KOIN	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Mom	Big Brother (N)	Zoo	"West Side Story" (N)		KOIN 6 News (N)	(3:5) Colbert	
6	KIRO	KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Mom	Big Brother (N)	Zoo	"West Side Story" (N)		KIRO 7 News (N)	(3:5) Colbert	
7	KGW	KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)	Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	American Ninja War	"Denver City Finals"	"The Mile High City" hosts the final stop.	Chicago Fire	"Telling Her Goodbye"			KGW News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show	
8	KRCW	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Penn & Teller: Fool Us (N)	Whose Line Is It?	News at 10 (N)	Two and a Half			Two and a Half	Met Your Mother	
9	KOPB	Mickela Mallozzi	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	Viewers' Choice									
10	KPTV	6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Shazam "Episode Fourteen" (SF) (N)	Love Conn.	"Secret Billionaire" (SF) (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)			News (N)	Raising Hope	
11	KPDZ	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)	9 O'Clock News (N)	Family Guy	American Dad!			The Game	The Game	
12	KCPQ	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Shazam "Episode Fourteen" (SF) (N)	Love Conn.	"Secret Billionaire" (SF) (N)	Q13 News at 10 (N)			Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons	
13	TBS	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	The Guest (N)			Conan (N)		
14	KZJZ	Friends Pt. 2 of 2	Friends	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory		Two and a Half	Two and a Half	
15	ESPN	(5:00) NCAA Football New Mexico vs. Boise State (L)		SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)	SportsCenter (N)					SportsCenter (N)		
16	ESPN2	(5:00) WNBA Basketball Playoffs (L)		Mano a Mano	30 for 30 Shorts	Nación ESPN (N)	Jalen & Jacoby (N)	30for30Short (N)	SEC	"Before They Were Cowboys"				
17	NICK	The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	I Am Frankie (N)	** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles *14, Act/Com	Alan Ritchson, Johnny Knoxville, William Fichtner.	Full House	Friends	Friends				
18	DISN	Jessie	Bunk'd	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Raven's Home	Stuck in Middle	Bizaardvark	Liv and Maddie	K.C. Undercover		Friends	Raven's Home	
19	FAM	(5:15) *** Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 *11	Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Home Alone (1990, Comedy)	Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern, Macaulay Culkin.							The 700 Club		
20	KOMO	(5:00) *** Interstellar (2014, Sci-Fi)	Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Matthew McConaughey.	*** Interstellar (2014, Sci-Fi)	Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Matthew McConaughey.									
21	LIFE	Grey's A. "Let the Angels Commit"	Runway "A Leap of Innovation!"	Runway (N)	(5:50) P.Runway (N)	Project Runway	"Descending into Good and Evil" (N)	(4:45) Project Runway	(4:45) P.Runway					
22	ROOT	(5:00) MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Texas Rangers (L)		Post-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Texas Rangers Site: Globe Life Park -- Arlington, Texas								Post-game	
23	FS1	(5:00) ARCA Auto Racing SCOTT 150 (L)		MLB Whiparound (L)	UFC Tonight									
24	SPK	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*** The Dark Knight Rises (2012, Action)	Christian Bale, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway.							
25	COMI	(4:15) Futurama	(5:00) Futurama	"The Deep South"	(2:25) South Park	South Park	South Park	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0		The Daily Show (N)	The Daily Show	
26	HIST	Mountain Men "Waste Not, Want Not"	Mountain Men "Long Shot"	Mountain Men "High and Dry" (N)	Mountain Men "Race to Ruin" (N)	(0:5) Ice Truckers	"Meltdown Blues" (N)	(0:5) Mountain Men	"Race to Ruin"	(0:5) The First 48	"In a Lonely Place"			
27	A&E	(4:06) The First 48 "Bad Medicine"	Biggie: The Life of Notorious B.I.G. A revealing story about the late Christopher Wallace.											
28	TLC	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	My 600-lb Life "Brandi and Kandi's Story"	Kirsten is close to losing all her mobility.									
29	DISC	Naked "Curse of the Swamp: Part One"	Naked "Curse of the Swamp: Part Two"	Naked and Afraid "Battle of the Fans"	Six fans take on a special 14 day survival challenge. (N)									
30	NGEO	Secret Brazil "Jaguar Rising"	Secret Brazil "Cannibal Caimans"	The Last Lions A lioness risks everything to keep her family alive.	Swamp Lions									
31	USA	Bones "Harbingers in a Fountain"	Bones "The Bond in the Boot"	*** Vacation (2015, Comedy)	Christina Applegate, Leslie Mann, Ed Helms.									
32	TNT	(5:30) *** The Italian Job *03	Charlize Theron, Donald Sutherland, Mark Wahlberg.	*** Tombstone (1993, Western)	Val Kilmer, Michael Biehn, Kurt Russell.									
33	USA	(5:00) NCIS "Agent Alfoot"	NCIS "Capitol Offense"	NCIS "Love Boat"	NCIS "Shell Game"									
34	FOOD	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Chopped "Fig Out"	Chopped "Bizarre Baskets!"									
35	HGTV	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop				
36	FX	(5:00) ** The Heat *13	Melissa McCarthy, Sandra Bullock.	** Spy (2015, Action/Comedy)	Jude Law, Rose Byrne, Melissa McCarthy.									
37	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon									
38	FNC	The Five	Hannity	Filthy Rich Guide	Filthy Rich Guide									
39	61	Shark Tank	Shark Tank											
40	BBW	Flipping Out "Welcome Home, Monroe"	Below Deck "The 1 Percenters"											
41	TRAV	Movie	(4:45) *** Butterflies Are Free *72	Paul Michael Glaser, Goldie Hawn.	*** Alice's Restaurant *69, Dra	Patricia Quinn, James Broderick, Arlo Guthrie.	Zabriskie Point (1970)	Daria Halprin, Mark Frechette.						
42	SYFY	(6:5) G.I. Joe: Retaliation (2013, Action)	Dwayne Johnson, Adriane Palicki, Channing Tatum.	*** The Book of Eli (2009, Adventure)	Gary Oldman, Mila Kunis, Denzel Washington.									
43	RFD	SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America "Live" "Culver's"	Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Market Journal	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town				