

Manager: Bohn said he feels a sense of responsibility to set the bar high and lead

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Bohn said he is not bound by the turbulent history of the county manager post and is optimistic about the future.

"You have to be a realist about working in the public sector and not everybody's going to embrace the organization, embrace the decisions and that's assumed," he said.

"But what I think is the most important thing for local governments is, no matter what, maintain quality relationships with everybody. Keep dialogue open, don't take it personally. Just be available, be transparent.

"And so I think the more we can embody those qualities, disputes are just one-time affairs. They're not something you repeatedly have to deal with. Because sometimes what you are dealing with is really history, because people don't forget."

Bohn was the assistant county administrator for Washington County for 28 years.

"One thing I've learned is every individual has their own way and my way, my methods, my approach would be unique," he said.

"And so, what I just hope is that uniqueness fits what Clatsop County needs and I think that it does because I'm really relationship-based, I'm a listener. And so I think that will be the right approach. So I'm very positive and very hopeful and I feel blessed to be here, honestly."

Bohn has spent the past 30 years coming to the region as his wife, Stacey Larson, was born and raised here and still has family in Naselle, Washington. They also have a second home in Astoria.

After starting as a management intern in Washington County, Bohn eventually moved up, overseeing human resources for a workforce of 2,200 in finance, information technology, emergency management and other departments.

His accomplishments include winning voter approval of a \$77 million bond measure for emergency communications infrastructure. He also developed employee work groups to focus on capital improvements, along with equity, inclusion and diversity teams.

"There's a lot of accomplishments in there. But I think my greatest accom-

plishment, honestly, is just I've been a fair and honest broker doing the public's work and that I love public service," Bohn said.

"I care. And that's not something a lot of people talk about, but I seriously care about the employees, I care about the board, I care about the residents. I got into this business to serve."

He said he feels a sense of responsibility to set the bar high and to lead.

He also tries to give people he works with the tools, opportunity, training and leadership to be successful in their jobs so they can handle any situation.

"What I've always said is accept quickly. Accept what it is, trust that you're going to be OK and manage the heck out of it," Bohn said.

He also reinforces the need for civility in government, because if there's not, it takes opportunity off the table, he said.

"What I am hopeful for, though, is we don't lose our civility and we don't get to a point where we don't see each other, we see our differences, but not all of our similarities," Bohn said. "I'm still optimistic. I still feel very good about where we're generally headed."

Museum: Not cost-effective to keep up

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"Diane comes to coffee with the mayor pretty religiously," Mayor Henry Balensifer said at a recent City Commission meeting. "She reported that the majority of people who come aren't trying to check out what's in Warrenton. They're going to Seaside and Cannon Beach. They're going south. They saw it. They stopped by."

The building has standard utilities and is not cost-effective to keep up or staff, Balensifer said. Commissioner Pam Ackley and Commissioner Mark Baldwin agreed that the city should let the site go. City Manager Linda Engbretson said she would let the property owners know the city plans to cease operations.

Collier has filled every nook and cranny — even the bathroom — of the

building with photos and other memorabilia. She's looking for a place to display at least part of the collection after the building goes away. The city has discussed taking on part of the collection.

"I'd rather leave them in Warrenton ... if there's a place that wants to display them," she said. "If that doesn't work, I'll take it home and put it in my husband's garage."



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