

# Cannon Beach public works director to leave

## Dan Grassick credited with upgrades, parks master plan

By R.J. Marx  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Dan Grassick, the city's public works director since 2013, will be leaving Cannon Beach to spend time with his family. The public works director supervises the work of 13 employees and manages an average annual operations budget of \$5 million and an average capital budget of \$500,000.

"The expertise you had with that guy was amazing — you almost never find it in a town of this size," City Manager Brant Kucera said.

Because of vacation time accrued, Grassick plans an April 28 departure.

"My life priorities shifted recently and I realized I need to focus on my wife and grandkids while I am still able and healthy," Grassick said. "I have enjoyed my time here with the entire management team and especially the public works staff. These are very dedicated and passionate staff who take pride in the work they do every day for the citizens, as well as environmental sustainability."

### Nationwide search

Grassick was hired in 2013 after a nationally advertised search that drew 35 applicants. With the U.S. Air Force for 29 years, both active duty and reserve, he worked in an engineering capacity as an instructor, liaisons officer and commander before acquiring municipal works experience in Albany and Lebanon.

Kucera credited Grassick with water, wastewater and parks master plan development during his nearly four years in Cannon Beach.

"The other thing, too, that I'm really proud with Dan is the street-overlay program, where he's tried to routinely



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

**Dan Grassick is leaving his post in April after being Cannon Beach's public works director since 2013.**

maintain our streets, as well as to look to maintain the unpaved streets," Kucera said.

The city's RV Resort witnessed a "huge upgrade" under Grassick's supervision, bringing in electrical, water and sewer to the area east of U.S. Highway 101, Kucera said. "That property has gone seamlessly. It really positions us in the future for the kind of experience campers are looking for."

Grassick said, "Every week seems to bring a new topic for discussion and potential problem solving. The community involvement has been interesting and emphasizes the importance of both written and verbal communication to a very diverse audience with wide ranging perspectives on all issues."

### The qualifications

The position is advertised at a salary range of \$73,000 to \$88,000.

According to the advertisement posted on the city's website and published nationally, the director plans, organizes, integrates and directs the programs and maintenance functions of the Public Works Department including water treatment and distribution system, roads and streets, wastewater treatment plant and wastewater collection system, stormwater, recycling, and parks and all facilities.

"I'm looking for someone who has really strong personnel experience," Kucera said.



CANNON BEACH GAZETTE/FILE PHOTO

Dan Grassick, left, at a 2013 tabletop exercise.

**'The expertise you had with that guy was amazing — you almost never find it in a town of this size.'**

Brant Kucera  
city manager

"We have a wide array of workers in public works, from very experienced to brand new."

Candidates experienced in budgeting, managing bid processes, project management and the performance of contractors are sought.

"While this is not a typical engineering project design and construction position, the opportunities for working on standard fare such as water lines, sewer lines, streets and treatment plant operations are there, as well as all the subtle community issues that come with being a very pop-

ular tourist destination community," Grassick said. "It's a continuous education and learning environment that ensures you stay energized and engaged every day."

All applications and resumes must be received at Cannon Beach City Hall by Feb. 28.

"Dan really brought a lot to the table," Kucera said. "One person doesn't make an organization, but Dan was a very important part of Cannon Beach. He's a great guy to work with. I felt like he's a friend. It's going to be hard to replace him."

## Short-term rental rules made simple(r)

Rentals from Page 1A

Barnes said. "It grows every month. It grows faster than our housing at this point."

He said the number of 14-day permits increases by about four per month.

Short-term rental homes make up "roughly 10 percent" of the city's housing stock, Barnes said.

Commissioners leaned to recommending the changes,

but opted to keep the meeting open to provide more public comment.

"I think given how potentially explosive this could be — this whole process started in the '90s — I'd feel more comfortable if there were more people complaining about this," Commissioner Joe Bernt said.

The City Council will consider the new terminology at their March meeting.



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Members of the Planning Commission Janet Patrick, Robin Risley, Joe Bernt, Bob Lundy and Hank Johnson. Along with commissioners Lisa Kerr and Charles Bennett, they voted to keep comment open on a short-term rental recommendation.

## Academy locks in site

Academy from Page 1A

He said it was the same request with some slight modifications to the floor plan. "Everything significant about the last request is contained in this request."

Commissioners unanimously approved the renewal of the permit.

"Today we overcame

another hurdle," Barb Knop, the school treasurer, said after the meeting. "It's going really well."

"There's a director, two teachers and two instructional assistants," she said. "We have a contract which the lawyers are looking at, when we sign that, we'll be in very good shape."

The academy intends to start enrollment in March.

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## Local officers honored for response after Goodding death

### Cannon Beach police chief, officers receive commendations

By R.J. Marx  
Cannon Beach Gazette



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Chief Jason Schermerhorn and Cannon Beach Police officers were among those honored at a ceremony for first responders Monday, Feb. 6, at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

Schermerhorn, a former Seaside police officer, was among the hundreds of first responders who attended a private memorial for Goodding, who was shot and killed in the line of duty trying to apprehend Phillip Max Ferry on a felony warrant one year ago.

Goodding's death brought an outpouring of support from the community and emergency responders around the nation, including members of the Cannon Beach Police, who assisted Seaside Police in the aftermath.

Schermerhorn and officers were honored for their "valued contribution after the loss of our beloved officer," Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said Wednesday.

Cannon Beach Police also receiving commendations were Lt. Chris Wilbur, Officer Josh Gregory, Officer Seth Collins and Cpl. Joseph Bowman.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, Wilbur received special recognition for his work as the liaison to work with agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to track down the handgun

used to kill Goodding. As a result of that investigation, Jamie Jones of Seaside pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Jones's sentencing is set for March 27.

On Wednesday, Seaside's chief thanked Schermerhorn for his "continuing support, not only to the Seaside Police Department, but the Goodding family," Ham said. "He and his wife have both been tremendous liaison and support and friends of the family. I know Amy (Goodding) is appreciative of that, as we are at the department."

"We were honored to help them and we'd certainly do anything to help them in the future," Schermerhorn said. "It was a pretty dark time for all of us. I was proud of the community and all the support we got from the different agencies."



Jason Goodding

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