



Water rates may see a 40 percent jump



R.J. MARX/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Cannon Beach water, wastewater and storm-water rates could increase up to 40 percent.

Recommendations to come Dec. 12

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

After months of deliberation, the public works committee will recommend to Cannon Beach city councilors a combined 40 percent increase for water and wastewater rates for next fiscal year.

It's the same rate that was proposed earlier this year as a way to finance projects in the water and

wastewater master plan. The 20-year plan is required by the state, and projects would focus on rehabbing or replacing a variety of systems, including brittle water lines and water storage tanks.

Approving the plan, which outlines roughly \$7 million in water infrastructure and \$2 million in wastewater priority-one projects, and the rate increase to fund it stalled in May after committee members raised concerns about how projects were prioritized and discrepancies within the rate study.

Since May, committee members worked with Public Works Director Jim Arndt to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of funding the whole master plan versus just a percentage, different rate structures and payment phase-in options.

But ultimately, the majority of the committee voted to recommend a proposal Tuesday similar to the one made earlier this year, which will keep the city's current rate structure and raise the average homeowner's water bill from about \$50 a month to \$70 in the first year.

The committee will introduce its recommendation to the City Council at a work session Dec. 12.

"None of this is easy," Arndt said. "We have needs in this town, and addressing them is going to hurt for awhile."

Fixing the problem

Cannon Beach has not had a significant rate increase in 10 years. Because of this, the Public Works Department has not been able to fully cover operational

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COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

Pax Broder with the Cannon Beach Distillery conducts a tour during a Women's Only Weekend event.

The bigger picture

Developer proposes code changes to foster affordable housing

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

It's been almost a year since the Sea Lark Apartments burned down, and the owner, Mike Clark of Coaster Properties, is looking to rebuild.

The fourplex on North Larch Street was one of the city's few affordable housing options. Clark hopes to maintain the affordable rent while expanding the complex to eight units.

But there are some hurdles. Increasing density would be easier with three stories, which is hard to execute with the city's 28-foot building height restriction. Clark would also need a parking variance, since there is not enough room on the property for the parking the city requires for eight units.

It's details like this that made Clark decide to not only request a variance to rebuild the Sea Lark, but to propose a variety of zoning or ordinance changes he believes would make it easier for private developers to build workforce housing, said Rainmar Bartl, a former city planner who represents Clark. "He's been frustrated trying to get something started," Bartl said. "So he's decided to address the bigger picture."

Bartl and Clark proposed the changes to parking and landscaping requirements, height restrictions and zoning at a Planning Commission work session last week. Some commissioners expressed reservations about how the changes would affect "the character of Cannon Beach," but ultimately decided to hold a public hearing in late January.

Proposed changes

City councilors named creating more affordable housing the No. 1 priority last year.

A housing study commissioned by the city found that second homes make up 60 percent of housing. Of the 722 homes occupied by full-time residents, only 45 percent were rentals. According to the study, the city's housing problem is a lack of affordable housing for the "missing middle."

"These are nurses, police, firefighters, city staff and other community professionals; they may be relatively highly paid and make too much money to income qualify for publicly subsidized housing but too little money to afford market rate rental units," the report states.

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For every kind of woman

WOW! weekend events draw visitors, benefit Cannon Beach Library

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

To Krista Tanner, it seemed like anytime there was a woman-focused event, wine was always the natural pairing to go with it.

Tanner isn't a huge fan of wine. So when she came to Cannon Beach for the WOW! event, she was pleasantly surprised to see a whiskey making tour at the Cannon Beach Distillery as a part of the itinerary. "It's just nice to have options," said Tanner, a Portland resident. "I prefer whiskey over wine, anyway."

Adding a distillery tour is part of a larger strategy to rebrand Women's Only Weekend, which in the past has traditionally been a shopping event hosted by independent shops and hotels.

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COLIN MURPHEY/EO MEDIA GROUP

Visitors to the Cannon Beach Distillery during a Women's Only Weekend event were treated to samples of several varieties of spirits.

Remembering Hamlet Fire Chief Bill Boone

'A huge loss' for the community

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

The firefighting community is mourning the loss of Bill Boone, who served as Hamlet's fire chief for many years.

Boone, 66, died Nov. 4 after a battle with cancer.

Hamlet Fire Chief Matt Verley remembered Boone as a chief, teacher, mentor and friend.

"Countless people are alive today because of Bill's efforts," Verley said. "Even after decades on the department, Bill was often the first person to the station when the pager sounded at 2 a.m."

Boone spent most of his life in Hamlet, running his general con-

tracting business and serving the Hamlet fire department for more than 30 years. He was the husband of state Rep. Deborah Boone, who represents House District 32.

"It's a huge loss for Hamlet community and the county," Gearhart Fire Chief Bill Eddy said. "He did a lot for the community. I've known him for probably 15 to 20 years. He never got excited, took everything in stride, was proficient at what he did and if he had a question, he'd ask."

Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels battled many blazes alongside Boone.

"He was a great man, and he was a mentor to all of us, especially to all of us fire chiefs," Daniels said. County Commissioner Lianne Thompson, who represents Hamlet, was a longtime friend.

"Bill Boone was salt of the earth,"



COURTESY HAMLET FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bill Boone on the job in Hamlet.

Thompson said. "Forty years with the Hamlet fire department, staunch supporter of Debby — he was a big man you could absolutely trust. He

loved life and life loved him right back. He was just a fine person."

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