

# Lexington town council meeting

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Other proposed improvements include a new water transmission line to serve the town, replacement of undersized lines, elimination of dead-end lines for improved system circulation and water quality, and replacement of existing asbestos piping.

Construction alone for the project is estimated to cost more than \$2.7 million, with a total project price tag at nearly \$3.8 million.

Along with the need for more water, the Lexington Town Council also discussed the town's water billing system and policies.

Earlier this year, the council and staff determined there was a need to clarify the town's policies regarding billing and late fees. At the Aug. 8 meeting, Lexington Town Councilor Bobbi Gordon said she also thought the billing tier is too low.

The current water base rate is \$50 for the first 10,000 gallons used. Additional tiered rates apply beyond that—an additional \$8.50 for the second 10,000 gallons, \$10.50 for the third 10,000 gallons, etc.

"I think we really should look at that again," Gordon said. "You're getting a whole bunch of 10,000 gallons of water in addition for not very much money."

She added that it might not be too much even to double the tier rates.

"I just think we should look at it a little closer," she said.

Lexington Town Recorder Veronica Ferguson added that the tiers listed were what was inputted in the billing software, but there was still confusion.

"What I'm confused about is when everybody over 10,000 gallons...ev-

erybody has a different rate," she said. "All different kinds of numbers. So how are these being calculated?"

She then said she needed to "test run" some of the bills and make sure the amounts were being calculated correctly.

"The thing is, we're really cheap on our water, and I think we should look at it," Gordon said again.

"We're not going to raise the base rate for a while. I know we've set it up to \$50," responded Ferguson, "and so it's really just the excess that needs to be assessed."

Gordon also pointed out that the town could make quite a bit more money if those with excessive water use paid more. Increased income could come in handy if the town ends up having to repay loans for well drilling.

Lexington Town Councilor Katie Imes suggested that higher rates might also make residents more aware of their water usage.

"We only have one well in Lexington, and every summer we face the same issue, and that is a water shortage," said Imes.

"People need water," she added, "and we want to make sure it's always available. If it's super cheap and

nobody's conscious of the situation we're in, people aren't going to be mindful if it's free-flowing."

"If you watch that well go from 310 gallons per hour down to 198 gallons per hour by the end of the day, you'll know that we're grounding that water table," Lexington Town Councilor Bill Beard agreed.

Lexington Mayor Juli Kennedy noted that heat was usually the concern, but this year the town also had some electrical issues with the well.

As if to highlight the council's concern, the town announced water use restrictions due to a critical water shortage on Aug. 14. A statement on the town's website said the well was running at full capacity, yet well production had slowed to about 50 percent.

The town asked residents to cut back on unnecessary water use such as washing cars and filling pools. As of Aug. 22, the water use restriction was still in effect.

The next meeting of the Lexington Town Council will be Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. The council will hold a work session with Anderson Perry and Associates prior to the meeting at 5 p.m.

# Symphony seeks singers for holiday music fest

The Oregon East Symphony invites all singers in the community to join its chorale for OES's annual Holiday Music Festival.

This year the chorale will be joining the symphony in performing Handel's "The Messiah" at the Vert Auditorium on Sunday, Dec. 10, and at the Hermiston High School auditorium on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Weekly chorale rehearsals begin Monday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m., taking place at the Pendleton First Presbyterian Church, 201 SW Dorian Ave, Pendleton, OR. Auditions to join are not required and vocal scores are available to borrow.

For more information on the chorale or the Holiday Music Festival, visit [www.OregonEastSymphony.org](http://www.OregonEastSymphony.org) or contact the office at 541-276-0320 or [info@oregonEastSymphony.org](mailto:info@oregonEastSymphony.org).

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## Hopeful Saints will be hosting Laser Tag Games with inflatable bunkers for area youth thanks to generous funding from MCURD

August 5th 5-7 pm in the Hopeful Saints Yard  
August 13th 2-4 at the lower field behind DollarGeneral

September 2nd 5-7 pm in the Hopeful Saints yard

**Matches will be 20 minutes with 10 minute breaks**




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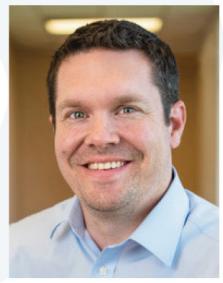
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- Limited range of motion
- Chronic pain that lasts for months or years
- Soft tissue injuries that aren't healing on their own
- Worsening hip or knee pain
- Muscle or joint pain that started after an accident or injury
- Difficulty climbing stairs
- Arthritis in your elbow, hip, or knee
- Tingling or numbness in your hands

### MEET OUR TEAM

Our Board Certified physicians can provide evaluation, treatment and surgical intervention if needed. Drs. Anderson & Whittum are trained in Mako Robotic surgeries for precise joint replacements. Dr. Duncan is a Board Certified podiatrist and an experienced foot & ankle surgeon.



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