

History and usage of SDCs explained

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There are two fees; reimbursement fees which may be spent on capital improvements to the system (so sewer fees for sewer improvements, but not for stormwater, for example), including debt service; and Improvement fees to be spent only on capacity-increasing capital improvements, also including debt service. ORS 223.297-314 specifies what can and can't legally be done with SDC funds and how they can be set.

The math for figuring out how much to charge is fairly simple, using the amount expected to be spent on improvements, multiplied by the anticipated percent increase in usage, and divided by the number of equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) expected, to come up with an outside cost. City Councils then decide how much of that amount to use for the SDC.

Pigott used the wastewater project and the wastewater SDC as an example, using the \$9.6 million anticipated cost, times 26 percent (for the additional wastewater flow the new system will handle) divided by 589 (which is 29 new EDUs per year for the next 20 years. This is the projected increased wastewater capacity needed by 2027), to come up with a wastewater SDC of \$4,238. Once the collection system is put through the same math, the total wastewater SDC comes

up to \$5,749. If Vernonia actually adopted an SDC of \$5,749, it would be one of the highest SDC's in Oregon. Pigott said that the amount would be different if Vernonia passes a bond measure which would decrease the cost of the project that would be funded by rates and SDCs. Pigott went on to say that SDC's should be reviewed each year, based on the amounts collected and the amounts expended, and adjusted accordingly.

Pilot project info has potential for cost savings

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the cost of this phase down by between one and \$1.5 million before starting the final stage of the project. There is currently a pilot project running with two different membrane systems to determine which works better in Vernonia. At this time of year,

algae is a factor in the lagoons so the pilot project will determine which membrane can handle the algae and can run most efficiently under actual Vernonia conditions. If one of the piloted systems is chosen, the cost of the pilot for that system (two percent of the system

"Housekeeping" issues take the attention of Vernonia Council

Vernonia City Council took care of a number of housekeeping issues at their September 18 meeting. They approved the termination of the Interim City Administrator contract now that Dick Kline has been hired under a regular contract; changes to Ordinance 711 to allow for bed and breakfast operations in the city and fixed a typographical error (25,000 square feet vs. 2,500 per dwelling unit); changed the city's employee handbook to

more closely match paid time off language in the city's union contracts; and transferred funds within the Learning Center budget with no net change.

In other business:

- George Tice, representing the Public Works Committee told council that there will be a meeting of the committee on Wednesday, September 27, at 5:30 p.m. starting with a tour of the wastewater project.
- council approved closures of Adams Ave. and Park Dr. on October 7, for Salmon Festival.
- council gave consensus for a letter to be sent to Columbia County Animal Control which formally allows them to enforce county animal control ordinances within the City Limits.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., on October 2, at City Hall.

Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2006							OCTOBER 2006							NOVEMBER 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31											

VERNONIA			WEOC Directors			MIST-BIRKENFELD			BANKS			COLUMBIA COUNTY		
Al-Anon	Fridays	7:00 p.m. Grange Hall		3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WEOC				Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church	All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.		2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church	Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse			
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.		4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	American Legion Post #119	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post	Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church			
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Avenue		1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall	Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes			
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library		1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13	County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.			
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library		2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.			
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin		3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library	Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse			
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church		1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	Banks Youth Group	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.	Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30			
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill		2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall	Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office	Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse			
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6033		Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station	CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library						
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081		For location call 503-429-7193	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.	Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library						
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.		For Info Call 503-429-8133		Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby						
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-8133		6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant		Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club						
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library		For Info Call 503-429-4074		T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.						
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall		For Info Call 503-429-3713										
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant		10:30 a.m., City Library										
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall		7:00 p.m., City Hall										
Nehalem Valley Car Club		7:00 p.m., City Hall		7:00 p.m., City Hall										
Pioneer Museum		7:00 p.m., City Hall		5:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant										
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library		For Info call 503-429-1414										
Public Works Committee	2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall		7:00 p.m., City Hall										
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall		7:00 p.m., City Hall										
Venturing Crew 201	1st & 3rd Thursdays	5:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant		7:00 p.m., City Hall										
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414		7:00 p.m., City Hall										
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall		7:00 p.m., WGS Library										
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall		7:00 p.m., Grange Hall										
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.		6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.										
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Hall		7:00 p.m., City Hall										
Vernonia Learning Center	1st & Last Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall		7:00 p.m., City Hall										
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Tuesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall		1:00 p.m., City Hall										
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall		7:00 p.m., Senior Center										
Vernonia Pride	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall		7:00 p.m., Fire Station										
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center		6:00 p.m., District Office										
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station		1:00 p.m., Senior Center										
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office		7:00 p.m., Fire Station										
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center		7:00 p.m., Fire Station										
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station		7:00 p.m., Fire Station										
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station		7:00 p.m., Fire Station										