

City of John Day Newsletter

September 2011

John Day City Council sets street maintenance priorities

For the past several years the City has been faced with decreasing street revenues; mainly due to the loss of timber forest receipts from the County and stagnant State gas tax revenues. The City has tried to maintain the same level of service with fewer funds; unfortunately, the time has come to make tough decisions on how the City will continue to maintain its street system. The following table shows revenues the City of John Day received from the County and State Gasoline tax dating back to Fiscal Year 2005-06:

FISCAL YEAR	REVENUES FROM GRANT COUNTY	REVENUES FROM STATE GAS TAX
2005-06	\$519,500	\$89,446
2006-07	\$336,598	\$86,502
2007-08	0	\$87,241
2008-09	0	\$71,108
2009-10	\$72,112	\$76,872
2010-11	\$62,328	\$81,672

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Visit our website at www.cityofjohnday.com; send us your comments at grayp@grantcounty-or.gov.

Fire Station Update

On March 15, 2010 a Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out for architectural/engineering services for the planning and design of a new fire station. On April 27, 2010 the John Day City Council voted to enter into negotiations with BBT Architects for architectural and engineering services for a new fire station. The negotiation process was slow to start due to questions regarding cost estimates, conceptual design and the drafting and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the John Day Rural Fire Protection District. The negotiation process continued for the next several months.

On August 25, 2011, the City of John Day received a letter from Todd Turner of BBT Architects stating “in effort to save the City of John Day any additional legal fees related to negotiations and the review of the terms of the proposed owner-architect agreement, BBT respectfully withdraws our proposal”.

The State model rules for selection of an architect/engineer and the City’s RFP allow for termination of negotiations with the highest-ranking proposer, followed by negotiations with the next highest-ranking proposer in an attempt to reach agreement on a contract. The next highest-ranking proposer was Pinnacle Architecture, Inc. of Bend, Oregon.

At their September 13, 2011 council meeting, the John Day City Council voted to proceed with negotiations with Pinnacle Architecture, Inc. for an architectural/engineering services agreement for the planning and design of a new fire station. The city manager and city attorney will proceed with negotiations with Pinnacle Architecture and report back to the City Council.

Would you like to become a volunteer fire fighter?
Please contact Fire Chief Ron Smith for more information at
541-575-0028

At their September 13, 2011 council meeting the John Day City Council reviewed and discussed a recommendation by the Public Works Committee. The Committee met with city staff on August 23, 2011 to discuss and review a list of street maintenance priorities developed by Public Works Director David Holland.

The City Council discussed wages as being the largest expense in the Street Fund. Snowplowing priorities, snow and ice removal on sidewalks, spring and fall cleanups, weed abatement, crosswalk painting, pothole patching and tree and brush trimming along sidewalks were discussed and the City set the following priorities:

SNOWPLOWING PRIORITIES

The City Council agreed with the recommendation that the hills will be the City's top priority for snowplowing with Ford Road going up to the Blue Mountain Hospital as the number one priority. Depending on the situation, Valley View Assisted Living would be next and then the airport. A smaller truck will take care of the smaller hills such as SE Elm Street, Franke Drive, Highland etc.

The State Highways will continue to be plowed as in the past as per the City's agreement with ODOT. We want residents to know that the side streets will not be plowed until there is at least 6" of snow. Public Works Director informed the Council that the City can no longer afford to plow all of the flat streets in town and it is something that has to go away; however, he stated, if we start having safety issues on the flat streets, we will lay sand down in specific spots, such as in front of the post office or at the intersections as needed.

SNOW PLOWING PRIVATE ROADS, DRIVEWAYS AND APPROACHES

The City of John Day will no longer be able to sand private roads and driveways. In the past the City periodically sanded Ferguson Road and some private driveways as a courtesy when the roads or driveways became a safety issue. As the City is prioritizing snowplowing and sanding on city streets due to funding constraints; the City can no longer justify sanding private roads and driveways without compensation (reimbursement) from the property owners for time and materials. The City will sand upon request and compensation from property owners; however, the special sanding would depend on the availability of the sander and property owner's need to be aware that the City streets are our priority.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL ON SIDEWALKS 8-2-4-3 of the John Day City Code states no owner or person in charge of property; improved or unimproved, abutting on a public sidewalk may permit:

- Snow to remain on the sidewalk for a period longer than the first two (2) hours of daylight after the snow has fallen.
- Ice to cover or remain on a sidewalk, after the first two (2) hours of daylight after the ice has formed. Such person shall remove ice accumulating on the sidewalk or cover the ice with sand, ashes or other suitable material to assure safe travel

In the event of snowfall, property owners and residents are reminded the above City of John Day Ordinance requires you to clear snow and ice from the sidewalk abutting your premises. Please remember your elderly or handicapped neighbors who would appreciate your assistance with snow and ice removal.

WEED ABATEMENT

The main expense with the weed abatement is the same as with snowplowing and that is wages. We have over 16 miles of city streets and the majority of those have gravel shoulders. The City will continue to spray for goat heads and thistles so they don't get out of hand. It was the consensus of the City Council that noxious weeds come first and should be sprayed.

CROSSWALKS, PARKING SPACES, CURB PAINTING

The City will continue to paint crosswalks and the yellow curbs for safety reasons. Parking spaces on Main Street will continue to be painted; however, the side street parking spaces will no longer be painted.

TREE AND BRUSH TRIMMING ON SIDEWALKS

8-2-4-6 Trees of the John Day City Code states no owner or person in charge of property that abuts upon any street or sidewalk may permit trees or bushes on his property to interfere with street or sidewalk traffic. The City cannot afford to provide this service; property owners who are in violation will be notified to trim their trees and/or bushes.

The John Day City Council appreciates the community's patience, understanding and the importance of the implementation of these street maintenance priorities. If you have any questions or concerns, please call City Hall at 541-575-0028.