



## SMALL CITIES SUPPORT NETWORK

Region 2 Meeting - January 7, 2005  
2:00 - 3:30 pm King City Hall

### MINUTES

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Sheila Ritz (Wood Village), Diane Rinks (Lafayette), Steven Weaver (Carlton), Jane Turner (King City), Don Otterman (North Plains), Roland Signett (Durham), Kate Conley (Vernonia), Kaye Gooding (St. Paul), Stephanie Nixon (LOC).

- I. Introductions: There were 9 people in attendance at the meeting, representing 8 cities and LOC.
- II. Host City Presentation: Jane Turner presented some information on projects going on in King City. First of all, she gave a little background information. The City began as a retirement community, but has been annexing property since 1993. The average age of a King City citizen is 76. The city is implementing a gas tax and hopes to build a new city hall.
- III. Recent Developments - Current Issues: We went around the room discussing the projects cities are working on and the problems that small cities are facing. After each person talked, there was "feedback" time where the group could ask questions or offer suggestions. Below are highlights of some of the conversations.
  - A. The City of Wood Village is trying to figure out how to provide fire services to its citizens. Wood Village, Fairview and Troutdale all used to contract fire services from Gresham, but the contract amount is no longer reasonable for the cities' budgets. The three cities are considering joining a fire district, and Wood Village will go out for a levy in September. Diane Rinks of Lafayette mentioned that her city is trying to find alternative fire services because the city fire department is using the biggest percentage of the city budget. Sheila Ritz also mentioned that the greyhound race track property in Wood Village is now open for new development.
  - B. Lafayette is currently taking bids again for the wastewater treatment plant. This time, they are hoping the bids are at a level that they can actually award. If they do not award a bid by the end of February, there will be a moratorium on development. Diane Rinks said that the sewer rates are already very high and she is suggesting a \$4 a month increase in order to cover the \$800,000 in revenue bond debt.

- C. Carlton's two year old water plant is falling apart. The city is hoping that insurance money will cover the cost of repairs. Also, a water main is attached to a bridge that the county is planning to work on. The county did not include the cost of replacing the water main in the grant, and the city does not have the money to replace it.

There was a landslide in Carlton which slid into the city reservoir. Steven Weaver says that Carlton has two choices, which are to dredge the water, or to buy water from McMinnville, let the reservoir dry out, then clean it out. They have set up meetings with Rep. Wu and Sen. Wyden in the hopes of getting appropriation money since the landslide came from federal lands.

The city is also working on a downtown project, which will include new sidewalks, curbs and street lighting. Don Otterman of North Plains asked how this project will be funded, and Steven said it was through grant money.

- D. North Plains' population increased 10% in the last year, and the city is expected to double in 5 years. The city recently completed a periodic review. The city approved its first UGB expansion, which has now been appealed to LUBA. The city is confident of their success in the case. They are also working on master planning for the zoning regulations of new developments.

A superfund plume has circled the city's well, so the city is looking for a new water source. They are planning on constructing a water main into Hillsboro. They tried for a GOB, but it failed due to double majority. The city will probably increase its water rates by 30%, and lower them once the project is complete.

A levy that has provided one additional police officer expires in June. A new police levy measure failed last November. The city is planning on putting another levy on the ballot in March.

Finally, a company called Oregon Canadian has offered to build a new 2,500 sq. ft. library for the city. The company will donate some money and materials, and the rest will be raised through grants and donations. The whole project will cost \$2 million and the company is contributing \$750,000.

- E. Durham's situation is very different from other cities. Durham has no UGB, and there are only 50 acres left to develop. The city is already surrounded by other cities. The city does not provide water or sewer and contracts out for police and fire. Durham is also working on a new IGA with Tualatin for court services. The city is upgrading its parks comprehensive plan, which will include a pedestrian bridge connecting Durham and Tualatin. The city is also developing a tree ordinance.

- F. St. Paul is facing several problems. First of all, the local option tax which would fund the general operations and administration of the city failed last November. The city is scrambling just to keep the office open. The city is also expecting a couple of issues regarding Measure 37.
  
- IV. E-Mail Groups - Stephanie Nixon of LOC passed around an e-mail groups sign up sheet. Stephanie will put together an e-mail group for Region 2, that way people can communicate with each other easily between meetings.
  
- V. Appointment of Region Chair - Don Otterman (North Plains) was nominated as the Region Chair, and Jane Turner (King City) was nominated as the Vice Chair. Both accepted the nominations and were then approved by the members present at the meeting.
  
- VI. Meeting Schedule - The members present provided Stephanie Nixon of LOC with some information on possible future meeting dates. Stephanie will look at the council meeting schedules of other cities in the group and pick a meeting time and date.
  
- VII. Other Business - Ken Strobeck reminded everyone to read the Legislative Bulletins and to respond quickly to LOC legislative alerts. One of the important issues that may come up are shared revenues. Ken also reminded everyone to send LOC copies of any Measure 37 claims.