

City Manager's Comments

March 16, 2009, regular council meeting

Grant

PPD is, or rather will be, a recipient of a Federal grant of approximately \$23,500, which seems to be in connection with the Federal stimulus package, to be used for purposes of prevention and controlling of crime, and to improve the criminal justice system. It's one-time money, so I suspect it'll probably find its way into one-time equipment buys, personal protection and so forth.

City Dock

Parks submitted the damage claim from that boat wreck last summer to MMIA; MMIA did some analysis, determined the dock as having been built in 1992, estimated it to have a twenty year lifespan, did some math, took our \$1,000 co-pay off the top, and is sending a check for about \$4,500. I assume nobody will object did we put it in the Salish Point fund, as seed money for a more complete dock project.

Restaurant Electrical

You'll recall that we were asked to look into getting the electrical metering at the clubhouse straightened out and separating the pro shop and restaurant sides. Our lowest bid was about \$2,400, Foothills Electric, the money was available in the expenditure side, and we pulled the trigger on the project to get the meters finally straightened out, plus some of the other minor electrical gerrymandering, as well.

Also on the restaurant side, there's some deferred maintenance issues with the deck. Nothing catastrophic, but the decking needs replacing and the rails scraped and painted and so forth. It's in usable shape, but we'll budget for it and try to get that stuff done in the fall when the course slows up.

Bridge Project

We're expecting that work to commence any day though as of today there's no definite start date. But I'd like to point out that Karen Sergeant and Chiefs Chase and Fairchild have provided a thoughtful analysis of the parking and access issues and have devised a very good plan to keep traffic moving on and off Highway 93 in the downtown area, spread parking around, liaising with MDOT and their contractors on the job, and putting up temporary directional and informational signage both around the downtown intersections and on Highway 93 approaches to town center. I should note that, in order to provide a third lane to handle emergency traffic and to get breakdowns out of the traffic lanes, it might be necessary to close parking on one side of Highway 93 from the old Price's intersection to the bridge; if so, in order to be fair, we'll shut one side down to parking during one session, and the other side during the other session. We anticipate there'll be issues along the way and are trying to plan for it

in some meaningful way. It's our plan to publish the findings and produce an easy-to-read map.

Highway 93 – transportation plan

I informed the council a couple of meetings ago that I intended to bring the Polson-area Highway 93 issues back on the burner. I met a week ago Friday with a representative of the Tribes in further pursuit of that effort. The feeling is that, because of the Federal stimulus monies currently in track, MDOT will be able to proceed with packaged, off-the-shelf 93 corridor projects on a much faster timetable than has to date been projected, and it behooves the various concerned governments to get our ducks in a row. More to follow, doubtless.

Resort Tax

We received definite confirmation from the Department of Commerce that the fair city of Polson has been designated a resort community pursuant to the relevant Montana statutes. As a consequence the city is, if it wishes, free to proceed with exploring a resort tax. As you all know it is something the voters must approve. However, I am working on getting some kind of steering committee together, and it would be useful to me if one of you would kindly volunteer to serve in an ex officio, non-voting but useful liaison slot. I plan to have that committee compare and contrast the several voter-approved ordinances out there in Montana and figure out how to cherry-pick what might best serve our interests here, as well as compiling a history of how well these have worked out in those other communities.

Stimulus Monies

We've been engaged in quite a bit of tree-shaking in connection with trying to find a share of the stimulus monies out there. The various reviewing and granting agencies are on fast-tracks. We have several projects ready to proceed and lacking only money. We'd like see additional monies for the Hillcrest Reservoir project – that's the one for which we have TSEP as part-funding – and for the Main Street and Grandview Addition projects; those are the three pipe-and-road projects currently arguably "shovel ready," which is where this round of monies appears to be headed. Your water and sewer staff have worked very hard to package these projects in such a way that we can break out component tasks and put as many people to work as we can manage, which we believe to be in line with Federal policy. House Bill 2 is on the floor of the House for debate both today and tomorrow and we've reminded our representatives of our priorities here in Polson. DEQ is holding a project prioritization hearing Friday in Helena, and I'm going to try to make it there if doing so will serve any purpose, and I'll be in Washington DC towards the end of this month and am trying to get meeting with our Congressional delegation, as well. I think we're doing what can be done.

Windows

Five departments split the \$1200 cost to replace the two front windows. As you can see, Valley Glass treated us well; we got some good commercial grade windows – that

have sliders at the top for ventilation. The ladies in the front have uniformly asked me to say, "thanks."