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## MEMO

DATE: August 27, 2014  
TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Spencer Nebel, City Manager  
SUBJECT: Status Report for the time period of March 7 – August 22, 2014

While it has been my intent to issue a status report on a twice a month basis to you, the realities of my work obligations has interfered with my ability to spend the time to do this. I am hopeful now that we have a Finance Director, and a Human Resources Officer, and as I become more accustomed to my position, I will be able to have the necessary amount of time to produce these reports on a regular, twice a month basis. I apologize for the significant delay in getting this report to you. This report is more summarized than what I normally provide for you, out of the necessity of getting this done and getting caught up so that I can produce timely reports going forward.

### RECURRENT ACTIVITIES:

A list of recurrent activities that I have been involved with, during the past five month period, is as follows:

- Held regularly scheduled staff meetings on a bi-monthly basis to review agenda items and various upcoming issues of concern for City staff
- Meetings with the Mayor to review agendas and/or other issues as needed
- Met with the Airport Committee on a monthly basis. Please note that the Airport Committee meeting for June was cancelled due to quorum issues resulting with the passing of Doug Nebert. Overall, I am working with the Airport Committee to make the role they play in advising the Council on airport issues more functional, and meaningful, both for the Airport Committee and for the City organization. I believe the changes in

the membership of the Airport Committee will go a long ways towards helping to redefine the role that this group has played in recent years with the City.

- I have participated in regular, weekly meetings with Richard Dutton on IT issues, Mark Miranda on various Police issues, and Phil Paige and Rob Murphy on various Fire related issues, and Airport staff meetings
- Prepared agenda items and agenda summaries for ten regular City Council meetings. Met with the Mayor prior to each of those Council meetings in order to review the agenda, and deal with various meeting process issues in order to make the Council meetings as effective as we can. I do believe that the format adopted by the City Council is working well, and the meetings are functioning more effectively and efficiently under this new process. As time goes on we can look for other opportunities to make the meetings as understandable as is possible for the public, the media and staff going forward.
- Much of my time from March until early June was consumed with the preparation of the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. I appreciate the significant efforts that Bob Gazewood spent with this process. This was truly a collaboration of ideas in reforming the budget process, with Bob keeping me grounded in Oregon budgetary law. Bob Gazewood provided professional expertise, and a lot of hard work in pulling together various schedules and details for the budget. Bob was an excellent mentor throughout this process. Linda Brown modified the various formats, plugged in lots of numbers as departments submitted their requests, and I made modifications to those requests. I appreciate the substantial number of extra hours that Linda put into this year's budget process. I also appreciated the efforts that all of the department heads made towards providing information, in some cases in a significantly different format, in order to create a more meaningful budget process. I believe the format that we utilized will serve as a good basis for expediting the budget process in the coming year. Finally I certainly appreciate the willingness of the Budget Committee and the City Council to revamp the way the budget is reviewed and approved. The approval of a budget is always a challenging issue, since there are many people involved in the approval process that may share different ideas and priorities as to what the limited resources should be used for during the next fiscal year. I believe the Budget Committee worked effectively to review those areas where changes were suggested and then came to a consensus on whether those changes should be made in the budget or not. I believe that this budget will be a good fiscal plan for the 2014-15 fiscal year.
- Participated in a number of Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation meetings during the past five months. YBEF has a great amount of potential in bringing together various community players to discuss regional issues that can play a role in improving the economic growth and stability for the Yaquina Bay area.
- Participated in various interviews at K-CUP radio over the past five months
- Participated in several monthly lunch meetings of the Lincoln County Managers. This has been a good opportunity to get to know my colleagues in Lincoln County who are responsible for city management, and tribal and county issues as well.

- Met with City Attorney Rob Connell and members of the Council regarding various matters relating to the City Attorney position
- Participated in regular staff emergency management meetings
- Participated in regular Business License Task Forum meetings
- Met regularly with staff members on various operational issues
- Met with Council members from time to time on various issues

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES:**

Highlights of other activities during this five month period of time are as follows:

- Met with Wendy Engler and Kathy Cleary to discuss their views of the Nye Beach Zoning overlay. They have strong feelings that the existing nature of Nye Beach needs to be more strongly protected, while others in this process wish to maintain more flexibility in the type of uses that can occur in Nye Beach. This group continues to work through various issues with the ultimate goal of preparing recommendations to the Planning Commission who in turn will provide a recommendation to the City Council.
- Attended a round table discussion with Congressman Kurt Schrader at the Depoe Bay Community Hall. Councilor Allen was also in attendance of this session.
- Met with Bill Hall and Wayne Belmont on the expansion of the Urban Growth boundary to pick up the reservoir property
- Met with Councilor Swanson on various issues of concern
- Met with Peggy Hawker and Jim Protiva to discuss the best approach for including the requirement to spend 1% of the pool building cost on public art
- Met with former Astoria City Manager, Dan Bartlett, who is an ICMA Range Rider. The Range Rider Program consists of retired managers who serve as a resource for new and current managers within the State of Oregon. Dan tries to meet with each manager within his district at least once a year.
- Throughout the course of the past few months, Peggy Hawker, Cincy Breves, Richard Dutton and other department personnel have been involved in several demonstrations of a programs that assist with the development and compilation of agenda packets. In Sault Ste. Marie we utilized a process developed by Sire to compile our agenda. The City Council opted to go paperless once we had the Sire in place. The utilization of this type of program to develop agenda packets is a huge time saver and can avoid mistakes that otherwise occur with the submission of dozens of documents that ultimately get compiled into an agenda in the packet. Our most recent packet was the product of the agenda system we are currently demoing. The other advantage of using an agenda program for the compilation of the agenda packet is that it is so much easier to navigate particularly for people who are not that comfortable using these types of documents on a laptop or i-pad. In Sault Ste. Marie, the City converted over to an entirely electronic packet for all seven commission members, even though one had never utilized a computer in his life, and one other individual on the commission only utilized e-mail on her computer. There was a very short learning curve involved with this, and at the end

of the first year of being entirely paperless we demonstrated the thousands of sheets of paper that were saved through this process by bringing an equivalent boxes of paper and piling those boxes in front of the City Commission dais. Prior to making a final recommendation on the program for Newport, we will hold a work session to discuss the possibility of going paperless. I know that this was an issue that Council has had concerns about in the past. I do think that once you see the ease of navigating a packet that has been compiled through a professional agenda management program, you will certainly have a different experience with your agenda packets.

- Peggy Hawker and I met with John Russell and Laura Flores from Payne West to discuss our renewals for insurance, which went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Met with former City Manager, Don Davis, on several occasions leading up to and through the budget process
- Participated in the Finance Director interviews. As you may recall, we had scheduled two candidates to interview, with one candidate backing out, which left us with one candidate to interview. As part of the interview process, we utilized a technical panel consisting of: Julie Baldwin, from Lincoln County School District, Bob Gazewood, and Misty Ness from Fitz Advisors, LLC to evaluate their technical capabilities, and see how they would fit within this organization. In the interview process, everyone felt that Mike Murzynsky would be a very solid addition to the City of Newport staff. Following the interviews, we did criminal and credit background checks, as well as reference checks, including both listed references, as well as counter parts to various city department heads. All were very positive. I was extremely pleased that Mike accepted our offer of employment with the City of Newport. He is off and running with making some important fundamental changes in the various process and job responsibilities within in the department. As I have indicated in the past, with all the turnover, and with a disproportioned amount of work centered on Linda Brown, it was a very difficult situation, at best, in order to provide timely and accurate information about City finances. I am pleased with the progress that Mike has made with the department to date. As you may recall, Mike worked on a part-time basis for the first four weeks of his job and has just initiated full-time employment during the first full week of August. As with any changes it will certainly take some time to get the department exactly where we want it; but I have been encouraged by the support staff has given Mike and to the reinventing of our processes. I think we are going to see significant improvements in the timeliness and accuracy of our financial processes over the course of the next couple of years.
- We worked through a number of issues with the City's business licenses, particularly as it related to medical marijuana. From an administrative standpoint, we will be reviewing our internal processes in conjunction with any recommendations coming out of the business license task force in order to improve the administration of business licenses within the City of Newport.
- I spent a Friday afternoon in March with Lincoln City's City Manager, David Hawker. David was nice enough to carve out an afternoon for me to pick his brain as it relates to city management in Oregon. It is great to have that kind of a long standing manager as a resource for me as I am starting my career in city management in Oregon.

- Over the course of this year, I have met with numerous people to gain their insight as to what works and what hasn't worked with the Newport Airport. I have recently summarized these issues in a draft report that has been provided to the Airport Committee, and invited the Airport Committee to weigh in to these discussions, since I would like to present this report formally to the City Council at the first meeting in September. I feel optimistic about the future for our Airport. I think the important thing; while the past is never forgotten, it is important to not let the past issues drive what makes the most sense for the operation of the Airport going forward.
- Met with Belinda Goodie, Executive Director of the Celtic Festival, to learn about the event and to discuss the special event permitting requirements for the event in 2014.
- Participated with the City Council and various staff members in a town hall meeting at the Library.
- Participated in the annual City Center meeting in April. Chief Mark Miranda was in attendance as well.
- Participated in an open house for the Airport Project, prior to the mobilization of the contractor on site. There was good participation from most outside groups (Coast Guard, FedEx, etc.), and a limited number of local pilots participating in the meeting. Overall, Melissa did a great job in laying out how the project would progress. One of the things that Melissa has been doing that I think has been very helpful for the pilots is issuing a regular newsletter updating various stakeholders at the Airport, as to how the project is proceeding. Overall everything is proceeding very close to the original timelines established for this project. As you know, right now, the Airport is closed until the intersection is constructed from the north-south runway with the crosswind runway. Once this is reconstructed then the shorter-cross runway will be reopening. The Airport Committee is planning to do a celebration of the Airport in October to formally dedicate the new runway.
- Mayor Roumagoux and I had a meeting with Nancy Stueber and Erin Ram of OMSI to discuss the project. By all accounts, things are continuing to move forward with this important facility that will continue to grow Newport as a center for the Marine Sciences.
- Participated in an open house on the Big Creek Force Main Project. A small number of residents impacted by the project were present and had a good chance to understand how the project would impact them and deal with any individual concerns they had with construction. These open houses are important to do prior to initiation of major projects, even when lightly attended.
- Participated in a quarterly meeting of the ODOT Regional crew. These meetings involve Tim Gross, Derrick Tokos, and Mark Miranda as well. It is an opportunity to review concerns and address issues primarily relating to the maintenance of U.S. 101 and U.S. 20 through the City of Newport.
- Met with Wayne Belmont and Debra Jones regarding the County Fairgrounds and the arrangements that have been agreed to in the past between the City and the County regarding the County Fair.

- Participated in two meetings of the LinCom Board to rap up its business as the local central dispatch entity in Lincoln County for the City and other participants. The decision was made to place LinCom into dormancy so that if there is ever a need to recreate the entity, it can be reconstituted.
- Participated in the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Pacific & Maritime Heritage Center. Mayor Roumagoux, Councilor Allen participated in this celebration as well.
- I participated with Mayor Roumagoux in a meeting with Shelley Jackson of the Best Western regarding submitting a proposal to host the State Mayor's meeting, as well as the City Manager's meeting. Shelley was submitting a proposal specifically for the State Mayor's Conference.
- Along with the Mayor and members of the City Council, participated in the Volunteer Appreciation dinner. Cindy Breves did an excellent job in coordinating this event. It seemed to be well appreciated by all those who participated.
- Participated in the City's Way Finding Committee. The Way Finding Committee has had some frustration in their efforts to make advice on way finding signs within the City. Part of this is in how they try to communicate with City staff to move things forward. I requested that when they are advising the City on way finding issues, the committee approve a formal motion and then direct a letter to me in which we can then specifically respond as to what steps can be taken in order to address the issue or not. Sometimes issues come up with the committee wanting to implement that idea in the next three or four week period. That is often times not reasonable (depending upon the issue) since work schedules are made up well in advance of these issues. The committees need to be acting at the time of planning the work schedules, not just prior to wanting something actually implemented. So far these changes have been implemented by the way finding committee, and I believe we are having some success in accomplishing some of the tasks that were of concern to the way finding committee just by improving the communications model between the committee and City administration.
- Met with John Laseak regarding concerns over the deposit policy for accounts (I have heard from two other parties regarding this same issue). The City made a decision in that the deposit for establishing a water and sewer account with the City would not be refundable until after that account is closed. This is different than what was told customers that signed up for the two years prior to this policy in that they were told if they maintained good credit over a two year period, the deposit would be credited towards their current account balance. They believe that a city should honor what they were told when they signed up for these accounts. I agreed with that and I have instructed the Finance Department to refund the deposits for those who signed up for water accounts prior to the implementation of newer policy which makes those deposits non-refundable. It is my intent to work with staff to review this overall policy, since I think there are some equity issues that may not necessarily be fair with our current policy. Over the next six months I want to spend time with staff reviewing a number of our water policies and our rate structures to determine whether a certain modifications should be made to our practices going forward. From a rate structure standpoint, I

would like to be in a position to have specific recommendations for review during the budget preparation process for the 2015-16 fiscal year budget.

- Met with Ed Doyle regarding his thoughts for the City Center Deco District. He believes strongly that both the City Center and the Bayfront would be well served by attracting a multi-story hotel, perhaps with public parking in the general area where his business presides on the SW Fall Street. He believes this would be a good connector to help revitalize City Center and better connect it with the Bayfront.
- Former City Manager, Don Davis, arranged a meeting with Lincoln County Schools to show how they have financially tracked the various projects that are being paid for with the district wide bonding for multiple projects across the entire district. This process is done on a basic spreadsheet, downloading information from the construction managers of these various projects. It was simple to follow and at a glance see where the various projects were at in relationship to original contract amounts and budgeted amounts. In working with Mike Murzynsky and discussing it with Tim Gross, it is my opinion that we should be able to utilize the school model and modify it for purposes of our own construction projects. As part of the Finance Department reorganization, we have identified a new role of project management in Finance to work with Engineering so that we can institute this level of reporting within the City organization. This reporting would then be available for Engineering, and other departments, my review as well as City Council review, and could be made available in some form on our City website if the public wants to review the status of these projects. As we are proceeding forward with major investment of the City's infrastructure, it will be very important for maintaining support of the citizens of Newport to be as transparent and visible on how these funds are being utilized to meet these goals.
- Have had several discussions with Christy Monson of Speer Hoyt regarding the City's Cable TV Franchise. As you will recall, we extended our franchise for six months this spring in order to give additional time to negotiate a new franchise agreement. Christy has been waiting for consortium of a number of communities to have them complete their negotiations with Charter and then use that as a model for the City of Newport's new franchise agreement. Charter and the consortiums attorneys are a long ways off from having any agreement that we can copy. As a result, I have had Christy review our franchise, as well as our right-of-way ordinances which are connected to our franchise and it is Christy Monson's opinion that our current franchise with the ordinances that are in place provide the City a significant amount of leverage in our relationship with Charter in the area of franchise fee collection and right-of-way use. In our most recent conversation, we are reviewing that and if that is the case we may offer to simplify our renewal by minimizing any changes we are looking for from the City of Newport's perspective. More recently we have heard through the grapevine that Charter may be exchanging a number of customers with Comcast, which would include customers served by the head in Lincoln City (which would include the City of Newport). Lincoln City received a communication from Comcast indicating that this effort was in the works. City Manager David Hawker, had asked why they were notified and the City of Newport was not, and the response he received was the franchise agreement in Lincoln City required it, while our franchise does not. I did speak with the Governmental Affairs

Coordinator for Charter, Mary Rohr, who indicated that Charter intends to pull out of Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho. In exchange, Comcast is pulling out of a number of Midwestern states as part of an exchange of franchises with Charter. Among other issues, the cable companies need to get approval from the Federal government to make this swap. This may either expedite or slow down our franchise renewal process with Charter.

- Met with Lance Vanderbeck, Peggy Hawker, and Rob Connell to develop a new FedEx lease for the Airport.
- Participated in a meeting with Peggy Hawker with the County Transit System to discuss the development of a report and potential agreement between the City and the transit service for the funds provided by the City of Newport. Following the budget approval, Peggy Hawker, Wayne Belmont and I have met, and Wayne is making revisions to the agreement that was drafted by Peggy Hawker on the City's contribution in funding the transit loop. We are hopeful to have something back to the City Council this fall to enter into a formal agreement with the transit authority and to develop the type of monitoring that will be beneficial in helping the Budget Committee and the City Council evaluate the benefit of providing this service in future years.
- Met with the steering committee for the Visual Arts Center on several occasions during this period of time. Currently we are working through a governance model that will provide some structure of the oversight of the Visual Arts Center in the future. Once this is completed, I will be working with the Visual Arts Steering Committee on financial sustainability of this facility and reviewing the types of uses that would be appropriate for this facility in the future. It is the intent of the steering committee to provide a report back to the City Council in December, with a specific strategic plan to assure the long term sustainability of the Visual Arts Center.
- Had several meetings with the Safety Committee to move forward with a new employee training program as well other specific issues of concern to the Safety Committee. I think this committee is functioning at a good level to move this organization forward.
- Met Howdy Eddleman regarding his water bill. This seems to be an ongoing issue and after a meeting in the past week, Howdy asked me to develop a payment schedule for him and he would try and honor that payment schedule.
- Met with Janet Webster, as Chair of the Budget Committee, on a variety of budget matters in preparation for the Budget Committee meetings.
- Met with Tim Gross on concerns with older portion of the decorative street lighting system on the Bayfront. There are two light units that have failed and others will be failing in the near future. With the significant corrosion of the units, it is not feasible to repair those fixtures. We will be exploring the possibility of replacing the fixtures from the Maritime Museum to the Embarcadero with a standard unit provided by the PUD.
- Participated, along with other staff, at an Airport Emergency Table Talk Training exercise at our Airport. Lance Vanderbeck did a good job in holding this exercise. It did point out; however, that even within the City organization we need to be coordinating our emergency planning process more comprehensively.

- Met with Mayor Roumagoux and Mark McConnell regarding the City's role in the upcoming visit by the students from Newport to Mombetsu. This included the purchase of a gift for the delegation to present from the City to our Sister City, letters that would be presented to the Mayor our Sister City from Mayor Roumagoux and Mayor Roumagoux generously sent along some of her own artistic work as gifts for the Mayor and others for the delegation to present to the Japanese's counterparts.
- Met with Patricia O'Dell regarding concerns of the neighborhood north of Yaquina Head. This is an area of the City that experiences active slides, and as evidenced by the most recent sanitary sewer main break at Schooner Creek there are some significant limitations as to what the City can do in these areas. I spoke to Mrs. O'Dell, and a neighbor of hers, and in both cases their biggest priority was improving the surface drainage of water through the neighborhood. They are concerned that water lies deeply in ditches and across roadways and if this water cannot run off it further saturates the soil, which may impact the overall stability of the site. This is an issue that Tim Gross has since discussed, and he has indicated that he will take a look at what might be able to be done to make improvements in this area. He indicated they have many challenges since anything in the ground can be impacted by the movement of the ground in this location. We can talk a little more about this as part of our upcoming town meeting in September that is tentatively proposed for the Northside Fire Hall.
- City Hall was closed for the Memorial Day holiday on May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with Ted Smith on funding for renovations to the Library. As you are aware the Library Foundation has indicated they are willing to make a major commitment in funding for some physical changes to the Library complex. As a result, we have initiated discussions as to how this would be done. Typically when projects are done to a City facility, the projects are designed, bid, awarded and overseen by the City of Newport. The Library Foundation has indicated they are willing to pay 100% for this work and the question we are attempting to get answers to whether or not the project would still have to go through the regular Public Works process, since it is improvements to a public building, or whether there is an alternative way to complete this work since no City tax dollar funds would be used to pay for these capital improvements to the Library. We will be continuing discussions on this issue prior to coming to a conclusion so that we can move forward with these important projects for the Library.
- Met with Derrick Tokos to discuss various potential property acquisition and issues for the City of Newport.
- Mayor Roumagoux, Tim Gross and I met with Western Region Administrator, Keith Anderson, and Deputy Director, Joanie Hammong, as part of their effort to get out and meet with members of the areas communities that are served by the DEQ. This was a good exchange of information and Tim was able to brief them on a number of the City's initiatives in order to improve the quality of water entering the bay and Pacific Ocean that the City has been involved with, as well some our frustrations in getting projects permitted.

- Mayor Roumagoux and I participated in the NOAA Marine Operations to observe the change of command from Captain Wade Blake to the incoming officer, Captain Doug Baird. It was a very nice ceremony.
- Tim Gross, Bob Gazewood and I met regarding the water revenue bond that we are proposing as part of the current year budget to fund various projects. Bob Gazewood is continuing to work that on a consulting basis.
- I had a chance to meet with Harry Noah and tour his maraschino cherry processing facility in South Beach. Yaquina Bay Fruit Processors located on Port property in a water dependent zoning district. This was because the company discharged directly brine water into the bay. When the Noah project came along, the outlet was cut off as part of that project, and at that point Yaquina Bay Fruit Processors began discharging their brine water into the City sanitary sewer. At one point, Mr. Noah was planning to consolidate his Newport operation with an operation he has in the valley, which would have vacated the property being utilized in South Beach. Mr. Noah was facing resistance from his employees who did not want to relocate, and as a result Mr. Noah has been exploring options in which to address the zoning issues with his current operation. I took Derrick Tokos, along with Kevin Greenwood of the Port, and I have had a number of discussions on how to move forward on this issue. Mr. Noah is proposing to consolidate some of his candy making operations with the cherry processing which would meet the requirements as a conditional use since there is tourism focus to this operation. The City Council granted a two year extension in which to work through these various issues. It was interesting to see how any type of sweet cherry (black, yellow, red) can be processed into a red maraschino cherry. All the cherries are bleached perfectly white and then they are infused with the maraschino syrup, and obtain their color and flavor from that syrup. As I indicated, Newport's manufacturing center is very unique in that it includes brewing beer, making spirits and processing maraschino cherries!
- Terry Durham, who worked at the Newport Airport, resigned from the City in June to relocate closer to his wife's and his grandchildren in northern California. This has brought our staffing from three full-time employees, when I started in December, to one full-time employee. As a result, I authorized the hiring of one full-time temporary City employee, John Matherly. John worked as a Barrett's "temp" employee at the Airport, and worked at the City as a part-time employee at the Recreation Center. He was highly regarded in both locations and has an avid interest in aviation. We have hired John on a temporary basis until we determine what our management/staffing plan will be for the Airport.
- Peggy Hawker and I spoke with Mary Roehr, Governmental Affairs Director for Charter to understand the processes we should use when we complaints regarding Charter Services. Mary indicated, that as a City, we can contact either our local representative, Amber Kalnins. If it is a right-of-way issue, Joe Whisenhunt, or we could always contact Mary Rohr.
- Chief Miranda and I met with the Police Association over a demand to bargain. The Association has expressed concerns regarding the limitations of the new radio station

that has been completed by the County. The County is aware there is ongoing problems in certain geographic areas. There are a number of issues being considered in order to improve those communication dead spots. The Chief has indicated to the bargaining unit that this is an area we are continuing to work on and improve and is confident we will ultimately have a much better radio system than what we have had to work with in the past. However, it is taking a little longer than anticipated.

- Conducted preliminary telephone interviews with 8 candidates for the City's HR position. We narrowed this field of candidates down to those we felt worthy of doing interviews. Interviews were conducted in July, again utilizing Department Heads as one panel, a technical panel that consisted of Heather Arces-Torres, Lincoln City's HR person, and Janie McCollister, a representative from CIS, with me conducting the final interview. Reference work was done on our two top finalists and as a result of reviewing the reference work, and follow-up interview with the two finalists by phone, we offered the position to Barbara James from Vancouver, Washington. Barbara had a long standing position in HR with Standard Insurance. After Standard Insurance consolidated their HR responsibilities, Barbara has worked for a number of other companies that provide contractual HR advice and policies to employers. We were fortunate that the LGPI Conference was held this past week and that Barb was able to attend that conference. This will give her a good step up as she begins her work in the public employee setting for HR services. She was able to find a rental house in Lincoln City, and is moving into the house this week. She began her employment here in City Hall on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. We are happy to have this important position filled, which will free up some time on my part, Peggy Hawker's part, and Finance Department and others. It is critical to get this position up and running again.
- Had several meetings with Frank Geltner on the City Center sign which has been addressed by the City Council at your August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Worked with a company that conducts marathons and half marathons, who is working with Rogue Breweries to do a fall half-marathon in the City of Newport. Originally they had a couple of concepts that were not workable, including crossing the Yaquina Bay Bridge and routing the marathon through Bay Boulevard, with the finish being at the Rogue Breweries on Bay Boulevard. This would have required a partial closure of Bay Boulevard for a good chunk of the day. We communicated this would be problematic based on the amount of time the closure would be in place. Public Works Director, Tim Gross worked with the organizers on a route that would be entirely on the South Beach side of the bridge. The organizers were very excited with this alternative option, and are planning to pursue this first half-marathon this fall in conjunction with Rogue Brewery.
- Met with Chief Rob Murphy to review our approach handling false alarms and to evaluating on how to deal with reducing false alarms in the Police and Fire Departments.
- Bob Gazewood, Linda Brown, Tim Gross and I have met several times on the implementation of our new budgeting plan for capital outlay projects. We will have a major budget amendment that will carry over the unspent capital outlay funds from projects in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014, to establish separate capital outlay funds for those projects in the current fiscal year as we indicated at budget time. This

will create a capital outlay appropriation for each major project, which should be helpful in tracking the expenses as these projects either go forward, or if delayed. We are moving those capital outlay funds out of the operating funds, so they do not artificially inflate the amount of operating funds that are available for day-to-day expenses within City operating funds. As we implement this new plan for appropriating capital outlay projects, it will be a vast improvement over how the City has been budgeting capital outlay projects in the past. It will make it much more transparent, and more easily tracked. This, in conjunction with our project accounting changes, should allow for timely tracking of project expenses, and will hopefully reduce the conflicts that occur between the accounting for project funds by Public Works, as compared to Finance.

- Prepared a presentation for the June 6<sup>th</sup> Chamber lunch. I was pleased with how the presentation was received by the group.
- Derrick Tokos and I met with Wayne Belmont and Lincoln County Planning staff to discuss a project in Lincoln County that may trigger a requirement that the property be annexed into the City for the project to go forward. At the end of the conversation, it appeared that the work being done did not necessarily trigger requirement for annexation within the City; however, future phases of the project could reach that threshold. It did point out a communications problem when projects are being considered by the County within the City's urban boundaries. The County has agreed to notify the Community Development Department for any future projects that are in the process of being permitted to avoid this in the future.
- Met with Bob Gazewood to discuss our process for reorganizing the responsibilities in the Finance Department. We had hoped to have outline done before Mike started with the City, but since we were still rapping up budget issues and Mike would be starting in early July on a part-time basis, we made the decision to hold off on any further discussions until Mike was present.
- Met with City Attorney Rob Connell to discuss the City Attorney/City Administration relationship as part of the discussions that were ongoing regarding the renewal of his contract. Before the end of the month, Rob had opted not to renew his contract and pursue a new opportunity for his services. While Rob was out for two surgeries during the brief time we work together, I enjoyed working with Rob and felt he provided very confident municipal advice for me in my capacity as City Manager.
- Along with Mayor Roumagoux, Chamber Director, Lorna Davis, and Kyle Linhares, Chief of Staff for our State Representative participated as a panelist for the Chamber of Commerce Lincoln Leadership Program.
- Kevin Greenwood, Port Manager, and I participated in a meeting and a tour of the Newport campus for Oregon Coast Community College. We had a chance to have lunch with President Bruce Koike. OCCC campus is a very nice facility that would seem to have great potential for educating local students in the future. I think it will be important for us to work with OSU to integrate as many classes and functions from the community college as we can. There might be a nice fit for students who are studying here in Newport at the OSU campus to pick up a few credits in other study areas while they are

here in Newport. Our lunch meeting and tour gave both Kevin and I to wish Bruce well in his future endeavors.

- Met with Tim Gross to discuss the possible elimination of the summer water credit that the City of Newport has provided on its water bills. I indicated to Tim that we need to deal with this and other water rate issues that are more comprehensive with plenty of discussion with the Council prior to proposing this type of change a couple of weeks before possible implementation. As a result, we have held off on this item but I do believe it is something that we need to look at as part of comprehensive reworking of our water and sewer rates.
- Met with Ray Woodruff to discuss regional cooperation issues relating to hiring and emergency services. Ray is interested in exploring the provision of expanded emergency medical services by the local fire districts. I have indicated there are many pros and cons to fire departments that provide paramedic emergency services that would need to be carefully evaluated, since this would effectively drive the needs for a fire department that provides paramedic services.
- Met with Rob Thompson and Ken Riley from Thompson Sanitary Services regarding the annual report for Thompson Sanitary Service. I do have this information if any of the City Council members would like to review it in more detail. Overall there are no rate changes that were on July 1<sup>st</sup>, other than the implementation of the composting fee. I have subsequently indicated to Thompsons that the composting fee has been accepted with only a handful of complaints that I am aware. On the composting implementation program, they will be giving an initial report to the Council sometime this fall.
- Participated in a reception for retiring Fire Chief, Phil Paige. It is clear to me that Phil definitely brought the Fire Department up to the next level of service for a small community fire department. With any changes there is always some follow-up, but I think he certainly appears to have done a very solid job during his tenure with the City. I wish Phil and his wife the best as they pursue more time with their grandkids.
- Met with Christen Uhall and Michele Brown regarding the LINT drug team. This effort has suffered significantly through the loss of personnel by the State Police, the Sheriff's Department and the City Police. It had been our hopes that we would in the position to have an officer back on the LINT team by early fall. With our most recent resignations from the department, this will set back the timing of us having someone on the team. It is a priority of the Police Chief to continue being one of the key members of the LINT team here in Lincoln County.
- Met with Guy DiTorrice regarding access issues at Oceanview Assisted Living Center. Guy is interested in having signage on Hwy. 101; however our existing sign ordinances provide that the land must be properly zoned and the signage would have to be on private property with the consent of the owner and fall within the signage areas allowed for that particular piece of property. He is also interested in directing traffic to a different intersection over safety concerns, since the street intersection, to the north, has adequate turn lanes. He was hoping this safety consideration might warrant some type of signage for those that should be utilizing that intersection for access. I forwarded this request to Public Works and the Police Department for their review.

- Met with Bob Cowen of the Hatfield Marine Science Center. Bob gave me a complete tour of this important facility here in the City of Newport. He is very enthused about the expansion that President Ray has publicly announced to create a campus here in the City of Newport for various aspects of marine studies. We are very lucky to have this facility located within the City.
- Councilors Busby and Swanson, Peggy Hawker and I met to develop the RFP for City Attorney as was ultimately presented to the Council and approved by Council. A dual process was set up for a potential City Attorney as an employee, and potential City Attorney services on a contractual basis. I appreciate the efforts that Peggy did in drafting these documents for our review and her efforts at getting the various notices, advertisements and other recruitment responsibilities underway. It will be very nice once we have our HR employee here to provide assistance in these recruiting efforts. Peggy has done a great job in dealing with these types of issues in the absence of having a staff person in place to deal with these matters.
- I was out of the office June 30<sup>th</sup> to meet the moving van to reunite all our Michigan belongings here in Newport at our new house. So far we have been very fortunate that we have only encountered two things that any significant damage to them. In accordance with my contract, I did request a full reimbursed amount for moving expenses. I did provide a detailed accounting of moving expenses which did exceed the allowance provided by my employment agreement.
- Peggy Hawker and I met with our local Charter Communications representative, Amber Kalnins and Joe Whisenhunt\_(sp?) at their offices here in Newport. This was a good opportunity for a face to face meeting so that we have a way to sort through any complaints that we receive at the City level about Charter services.
- Attended the OCCMA 2014 Summer Conference in Bend, Oregon on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. It has been my practice to provide a detailed report on conferences, which help reinforce the things that I have learned and constitutes part of a report that I am required to file annually with ICMA to maintain my ICMA credentials.
  - Attended a session on the unique aspects of managing in Oregon. The areas focused on were: contracting, property taxes, budgeting, and land use. On contracting, Oregon has dictated many laws that regulate how local City governments can contract for services. This is particularly true in public works projects where the State has approved multiple restrictions on retaining professional services and contracting out public works projects. The entire purchasing process can be a bit of a field of land mines for the unsuspecting new manager (this I know!). One example cited was on janitorial services. In Oregon, services that employ handicapped individuals must be considered in the hiring process. Several cities have found themselves in trouble when they have bid these services and awarded a firm that does not employ individuals with handicaps. Purchasing is one of the areas that I really want to spend some time in developing some internal policies that are understandable and of course will work within the organization. In addition we had a lesson on property taxes in Oregon, including what the assessed value is, what the real value is, how Proposition 50 froze rates, allowing only a temporary increase above those rates

for five years or less. It was explained how this proposal reduced the assessed valuation by 10% and allowed a 3% increase per year. That compression was also explained in that individual properties are capped as to the total amount of taxes they can pay with any reductions occurring first to special taxes that have been levied. The League of Oregon Cities compiles an annual report which shows every city and how compression has impacted their revenue sources. There was an indication that in the last legislative session there were changes to Urban Renewal Authorities ability to capture school taxes. This will be something we will need to review to see how it would impact the establishment of a new Urban Renewal District in the City of Newport. Finally, in the area of budgeting, the role of the State and Local Budgets was explained. This is quite different from Michigan, in which the State played no role in the annual budgeting process for municipalities. Overall it was a good session for me as a new manager in Oregon.

- Diana Moffat, Stephen Shurbeck and Ashley Boyle spoke on behalf of LGPI regarding various issues relating to the employment relations board (ERB). ERB has recent rulings on the utilization of tracking devices in public employee vehicles as it relates to bargaining. They also indicated that after mediation a final and best offer cannot be regressive on behalf of the employer for midterm bargaining, in which arbitration must occur before implementation of any policies by the employer. New positions cannot be created by the bargaining unit without a memorandum of understanding. Establishing wages by tape recording negotiations may stifle bargaining, and if either party objects, the bargaining session should not be recorded. There was discussion on the public employers bargaining act (PEBA) particularly relating to notice requirements. There was discussion on the public policy exception relating to the enforceability of arbitration awards (ORS 243.706(1)). There was discussion on Senate Bill 1, which provides that certain employees may be allowed to take Veteran's Day off. In case of hardships, the day can be taken off on a different day. In our case, Veterans Day is a paid holiday. In addition, victims of domestic violence must be provided time off with or without pay when necessary. Senate Bill 1518 addressed eligibility issues, as to who can be excluded from a fire department bargaining unit. A supervisor was specifically defined as someone who can impose economic sanctions on employees. If a person in the department does not have the ability to impose economic sanctions on the employee, they cannot be excluded from the bargaining unit.
- Attended a session on workplace violence and behavior prevention training with David Nelson from CIS, Matt English, Hood River Sheriff, and John Walkenhorst, St. Charles Behavioral Center in Bend, Oregon. Workplace violence is a fact of life and there needs to be greater awareness within organizations of the potential of workplace violence. Most workplace violence occurs between co-workers. Another major source of workplace violence involves personal relationships, such as a husband and wife, or between girlfriend/boyfriend, etc. It is important for an organization to be aware if any restraining orders have

been requested by any employees within the organization. In these cases, if a restraining order has been issued against a certain person, and that person shows up at an employee's worksite, the plan should be how to best keep the employee, and/or a co-worker safe from a potential violent interaction. Sheriff Matt English emphasized the priorities of anyone workplace violence situation is to run first, hide if you can't run, and be prepared to fight if you can't hide. John Walkenhorst of the St. Charles Behavioral Center said often times it is not what is said by specific words but what is said in conjunction with the body language being exhibited by the person with behavioral issues. Furthermore, a person exhibiting a red face is likely very angry, while someone that is very pale in coloration may be exhibiting severe anxiety. If someone is in an angry, hostile situation, it is sometimes beneficial to indicate to them the facility has surveillance cameras within the facility. This may cause someone to reflect upon what they are doing. It is also indicated from an employee workplace violence issue, it is very important to know who you are hiring and to hire the right people.

- Attended a session on Cloud computing. There are a number of benefits to Cloud: including a reduction in hardware and other costs, more predictability, expenses; gives smaller organizations the expertise that could not be obtained with staff; it can provide office access 365 days a year, 24 hours a day; it can accommodate disaster recovery should the City's computer system be destroyed and the programs stay very current, while software becomes obsolete almost immediately after it is purchased. On the other hand, with cloud computing, you give up some control over the processes that are provided. There are a number of fly-by-night operators so it is important to understand who you are dealing with; data storage laws vary state by state, and potentially could be stored offshore as well, understanding where your data is being stored and addressing any specific concerns that may come up based on where that storage is occurring. It is important to ask questions as to who owns the data and how can you get out of the Cloud agreement if you wish to discontinue with that program, and also consider what information do you want to put in the cloud and what information is best stored on site. With any contracts it is important to have performance clauses outlining the expectations, and the level of service that will be provided. It was indicated that it is not uncommon to have barriers thrown up by the IT Department, including security and other issues by utilizing Cloud resources. Often times it is beneficial to have your IT Department look at earlier adoptions of the program so they can get in front of the process. It should be noted that programs that are provided by the Cloud free up the IT folks to do other projects within the organization. One other issue with Cloud technology is that it requires an internet connection. It is beneficial to have a second, separate link for backup, because if your connection goes down you lose all access to your program. Cloud Services Alliances (CSA) is a non-profit entity that provides various tools online.

- I attended a session on opportunities and challenges of using technology for citizen engagement with all the various website platforms, and social media, engaging with your citizens is seeing a fundamental shift. Twitter continues to be a fast growing media for social networking. Use of items such as citizen dashboards to measure the performance of the organization are becoming commonplace. Efforts are being made to make websites more-friendly with mobile devices (this is something our IT Department is also working on with the revisions to our own website). Many communities are placing a Google translation button on the website to allow for residents are not fluent in English to translate documents. Also some cities are using program where citizen complaints can be made directly on potholes, and once the pothole is filled there is automatic update to that citizen when that work has been completed.
- There are a lot of different and strategies incorporating social media within organizations. Tualatin, Oregon, uses the City Manager and Assistant City Manager as the gatekeepers for any social media messages that are communicated from their city. Some cities are doing this on a departmental basis with an Information Officer monitoring the communications being done by the departments with social media. The City of Bend centralizes the control of social media, with limitations as to who can formally communicate on behalf of the city. It is important with social media to utilize a solid website as the backbone. Social media is very appropriate to refer people back to the website for the detailed information that cannot be done through social media. Some places are putting “QAR” codes on water bills that citizens can get further details of how the cities are utilizing these funds.
- Heard a presentation from Steve Bryant embracing diversity. He advocates changing “What’s Wrong Here and How Can I Fix It” to “What’s Possible Here and Who Cares”.
- There was a round table discussion about various issues that cities in Oregon have recently faced. One, of the most intriguing, was a ruling from BOLI that the City of Salem owed prevailing wages for donated labor for a carousel project that was built in one of the city parks. Why I did not get all the details of this issue, it did raise some concerns that when we have any voluntary projects that involve donated labor, we need to make sure we have our i’s dotted and our t’s crossed so that we do not incur a huge liability for that donated labor.
- Heard presentations on innovations outside of Portlandia. One of the presenters was Don Mann, former Port of Newport Manager, on the Port & City’s success in attracting the NOAA Pacific Fleet to Yaquina Bay. In addition, Wes Hare gave a presentation on the talking water gardens, which was a significant park enhancement that doubled as a way to cool water from the city’s treatment plant. This was a project on the books for a long time and benefited from a \$5 million ARRA funding (as part of the economic stimulus funding) to complete this wastewater project that is more appreciated by the community for the enhancement to the overall park facilities that resulted.

- Brad Estes, City Manager of Astoria, indicated the success that Astoria has had with breweries as an economic development tool.
  - We heard from Christian Kaylor of the Oregon Employment Department who provided various stats on job growth in Oregon. He indicated the jobs in Oregon were at 1,735,300 in 2008. At the peak dropped down to 1,611,300 jobs and in 2014 is at 1,721,600 jobs. While this is an increase of 110,000 jobs in four years, it is still below where the State was at in 2008. Furthermore, the low wage jobs have grown faster than high wage jobs or middle wage jobs. One disturbing factor in the State is that of these 110,000 jobs, 90,000 have been created in the Portland area. Portland has become a national top performer in the addition of jobs during this time period. It is important to note that even with this growth of jobs in the Portland area, single family housing is still flat. However, multi-family housing expansion is above 2005 construction boom years in the City of Portland. More people are looking for affordable rental housing than owning housing.
  - Craig Honeyman from the LOC gave a brief primer on local government lobbying of legislators. He said it was important to note there is a \$50 limit on gifts per year, per legislator. Furthermore, the limits for lobbying regulations is that less than \$100 is spent per year on lobbying, and that no more than 24 hours in a quarter is spent working with legislators. It is critical that local elected officials work closely with the state elected official and have a clear message as to what the priorities are from that local unit of government.
  - I also attended a session from the Oregon Ethics Commission, a session on speed coaching as well a round robin discussion with other managers on various local issues of concern or interest. I certainly appreciated the opportunity to have participated in the Oregon City/County Management Association 2014 Summer Conference at Mt. Bachelor Village Resort in Bend. I was very favorably impressed with the professionalism of the conference put on by the Oregon Managers.
- Met with Carrie Lewis of the Oregon Coast Aquarium to discuss an ongoing issue between our Way Finding Signage group and the Aquarium. Our advisory committee was insistent that the Way Finding signs be placed near the small waterfall inside the Aquarium grounds. Carrie indicated that she had no problem with the signs being placed by the parking lots, but the Aquarium has worked long and hard to present an experience as people walk from the parking lots in the walkway through the front door of the Aquarium and through the grounds and this type of signage is not something they are willing to allow at that location. Carrie indicated that a couple of signs could be placed where the walkway crosses over to the parking lots. This she would have no objection to. I will be communicating that back to the Way Finding Committee, and I am in agreement with the rationale behind this.
  - Participated in a meeting with YBOOY who plan to hold a Marine Science Economy Conference later this year. There was some discussion as to what the goals are trying to be achieved with the conference, and how these goals are to be measured, and to see if

those goals are actually achieved with the conference. Bob Cowan gave an update on the OSU Marine Campus discussion and there was discussion on the establishment of an Ocean Technology Center at the Port of Newport

- Had a meeting with Jeff Bertuleit, Chris Watson, and Ryan Bledsoe, owner of the glass blowing shop on the west side of Hwy. 101 in South Beach, to discuss urban renewal issues. There is some concern that a lot of resources are being spent on the improvement of residential streets, which will have minimal impact on expanding the tax base within the City of Newport. Jeff indicated the Urban Renewal Agency should be focusing on the expansion of the tax base by posturing development of the Hwy 101 corridor in South Beach. Properties are developing with a number of issues including drainage/wetland issues, traffic access and similar types of concerns. It is important to have some sort of traffic signal on the southern half in order to make those properties more desirable for development. Ryan Bledsoe indicated that is almost impossible for them to make a left hand turn during the summer season. Improvements in traffic accessibility to Hwy 101 needs to be made in that area. There was concern that some of these improvements are called for in the third and final phase of the Urban Renewal Agency South Beach Plan but the question whether will we ever get to that point. They wanted to make sure I was aware of their concerns and that when we are revisiting the Urban Renewal Plan for South Beach that we need to remember the significant issues that could expand the tax base of the City of Newport through development of properties further south from the 35<sup>th</sup> Street intersection.
- Mayor Roumagous, Councilor Allen and I met with Bob Cowan, Director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center, to discuss what role the city could play to help facilitate the development of a Marines Study Campus in Newport. Bob gave an overview of the \$20 million dollar grant that has been given to the University if the University can raise \$25 in State funds, \$5,000,000 in private capital and \$15,000,000 to fund the program by 2017. It is critical for the University to show that this broad based support on the entire coast of Oregon. Furthermore, Mr. Cowan was very appreciative of the \$15,000 that was provided by Lincoln County in order to jumpstart input on what the economic benefits of this facility will have on the entire coast. It is the goal to break ground and construction of this facility in 2017, and have it operational during the 2018 calendar year. As a result of the meeting, Mayor Roumagoux and Councilor Allen recommended the City Council publically endorse the development of this campus in Newport, which was done at a City Council at a following meeting, and that letters be directed to President Ray giving our enthusiastic support for this project, and to the County thanking them for their investment in a regional study to demonstrate the benefit this facility would have on the entire coast. Mayor Roumagoux, Councilor Allen and I pledged our commitment of the City in order to work closely with OSU in order to address issues that will need to be taken care of to make this project a reality.
- Participated with the Audit Committee in a meeting with our City auditors. Through the leadership of our new Finance Director, every effort is being made to have a timely audit for the 2013-14 fiscal year period. This will mean we should have the audit by December 31, 2014. Finance Director, Mike Murzynsky, has divided up the responsibilities for providing information to the auditors among various staff. In the

past this burden has primarily been placed on Linda Brown in order to prepare the required schedules and information for the auditors. This should help facilitate the process. The City of Newport has never had a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that would be part of our audit for the first time. Preparation of the first CAFR is the most time consuming of the effort. Once you have a CAFR in place, it is updated annually as part of the annual report. I wish Mike and the Finance Department well in meeting this goal to have a timely audit completed for this past fiscal year.

- Participated in the preliminary close-out meeting with our auditing firm. Overall he believes everything is on track. I indicated to our auditor that if there is anything on the part of the City of Newport that is delaying the audit process to please specifically let me know what it is ahead of time so we can address it in a timely basis. Otherwise, I told him we are holding the auditing firm accountable for getting this audit on a timely basis for this year, He indicated that he understood and that if there are any issues on the part of the city that are delaying their work, he will let me know.
- Met with Rob Murphy and Tracy Cole regarding a follow-up to the Fourth of July fireworks. We had some discussion about potentially requesting proposals for fireworks for future years. It has been a number of years since this has been requested, and it might be good to look at alternative companies, as well as our existing fireworks company and enter into a multiyear contract for fireworks to get the biggest “bang” for our bucks.
- Met with Bob Gazewood, Mike Murzynsky to develop a reorganization plan for the Finance Department. This was a very fruitful meeting in that we had multiple perspectives on the issue. Bob and I had met individually with all the members of the Finance Department to discuss their concerns, problems and issues that could be addressed through reorganizational efforts. Overall, everyone was very forthright and honest with us. Individuals recognized certain problems that existed within the department and all wanted to put the department on a stronger, more professional footing. Furthermore, in reviewing this information that Bob and I collected, plus additional information that Bob requested from each individual member of the department outlining their specific responsibility, we had a good basis to critically look at this operation and determine how to improve the functionality of the department. Also, Bob, Mike and I each brought three different perspectives to this issue. After observing the department for nearly a full year, Bob had a pretty clear understanding of what was working and what wasn't working within the department. The biggest issue was the way the work was divided among the personnel in the department. Work was not getting done on a timely basis and in some cases having done on an accurate basis. There was a need to reshuffle responsibilities to make sure everyone was carrying an equivalent load of the efforts needed in the department. I had suggested to Bob and Mike that we put each individual job responsibility on an individual sticky note and then we organize those job responsibilities on sticky notes under each funded positions we have in the department. As we reviewed each individual job responsibility a decision was made as to where it would fit best within the organization and that was the basis used to reorganize who was doing what in order to get the Finance job completed. Also, a number of items had been done by the Finance Department that really should be done

by the HR person. Filling the HR position will free up a little additional time in the department. Bob and Mike continued work on this effort after I left the office. Bob then compiled the results of all our sticky notes and the location of those responsibilities for the people within the department to put this together in a more cohesive report fashion. From this, Mike spent some time reviewing Bob's report, making some final tweaks and then reviewing it with the personnel within the Finance Department. After hearing any further comments, he made the final adjustments to this plan and has since implemented the plan. We will present a report to the City Council at the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in order to brief Council the changes that have occurred. Overall I think we are off to a great start at trying to fundamentally address some of the long standing concerns that have been expressed about the Finance Department. I think this will go a long ways towards improving the relationship of the Finance Department to other departments within the City, and to improve the confidence level in the information that is being provided by the Finance Department to various departments. It will also help built confidence with those in the department that they are completing their work in an appropriate, professional manner and eliminate some of the surprises that have been too common during my time with the City. I am feeling very optimistic and appreciative of everyone within the Finance Department for openly embracing these changes and working hard to implement them for the betterment of the department and the City of Newport. I would also ask people to have patience with this process. Employees are learning new jobs as they go forward and with any new responsibilities there may be some hiccups and some errors made in implementing this new plan. In the end I am very confident this will lead to a much smoother functioning department within the City of Newport.

- I was off on the afternoon of Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> in order to pick my brother-in-law up at the Airport in Portland. He came out to visit the Oregon Coast and to do some painting for Angela and myself in our new home.
- Met with the Fire union to have a preliminary discussion on our upcoming negotiations.
- Participated in the Aquatic Center Public Work shop that was held to review some of the preliminary concepts that were requested to be incorporated in the design of the new City pool.
- Mike Murzynsky, Bob Gazewood, Linda Brown and I met to lay out the budget process for the 2015-16 year. I like to do that while the memory of the current year processes are still very fresh. I believe that with the changes that we have made, particularly in the capital outlay, next year's process to develop the proposed budget for review by the Budget Committee will go smoother. This was a particularly challenging effort with the changes we made the budget process, with me getting familiar with our accounting system and with Bob Gazewood filling in on an interim basis. I have high hopes for the preparation process utilized for our next City budget.
- Participated in a discussion regarding the parking issues on the Bayfront. Parking is a limiting factor any developments that would occur in that particular area. Furthermore, there is developable land that is currently being utilized for parking in this district. One of the things that we are reviewing on a very preliminary way internally is how to best address the parking capacity of this busy commercial district. We intend to hold future

discussions with various stakeholders on the Bayfront about how we can potentially address long-term parking issues in this interesting and geographically limited commercial district.

- Participated in a reception for new public managers in Lincoln County. It was rather eye-opening and a bit startling to have all the new managers of public sector entities together. This reception was held, in part, so that we get to know each other better, and so that others in the community could also meet us. The group included the new PUD Director, the new Director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center, the new Port Director, the new School District Superintendent, as well as myself who have all been in the County for a year or less. I am already climbing the seniority ladder! Hopefully, this will be a great period of time to continue moving Newport and Lincoln County in a very positive direction under all this new leadership.
- Tim Gross, Derrick Tokos, Jim Protiva and I met to review any issues related to the use of the small park area by the Maritime Museum for display and signage for the museum. In reviewing this property, most of it is owned by the museum, but a portion of it is City property. The museum intends to do a display at this location and in reviewing various City issues we have no objections to the Maritime Museum taking the lead in reutilization of this area for the purposes they have outlined, subject to a presentation and final review of the specifics of what they are proposing in this area. The area is the spot where the former waterwheel was located in front of the Maritime Museum.
- Mayor Roumagoux and I participated in the YBEF annual dinner that was held at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in the Gleeson room. The keynote speaker was Dr. Edward Ray, President of OSU. Dr. Ray gave a very enthusiastic pitch for the development of the Marine Studies Campus Program here in Newport. He indicated that this is his top priority as far as the next major expansion project for Oregon State University. Mayor Roumagoux presented to President Ray the letter from the City Council giving its enthusiastic support for the campus. Dr. Ray was very pleased in receiving this letter. Mayor Roumagoux also publicly presented a letter to Lincoln County thanking them for taking the lead on conducting a regional/economic study that will be used to justify the benefits of this campus expansion on the entire coast of Oregon. It was a very upbeat, positive dinner meeting, exciting times are ahead for all of us in Newport.
- Met with Pat McGuire regarding two issues. First of all, he expressed his interest in potentially managing the Visual Arts Center. I indicated to Pat that facility is run by the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts (OCCA) and he indicated that he had actually applied to them for the position. Secondly, he indicated he is working with another party on a medical marijuana dispensary, and he was a little concerned about the regulatory atmosphere of marijuana in Newport. I did explain what the basis was for the regulatory provisions in the City of Newport and that other operators were at the table and were supportive of the steps that we were taking in order to safely regulate this new business in the community.
- As part of our efforts to beef up emergency planning within the City of Newport, our Emergency Planning Committee set up a joint meeting with Lincoln County to discuss emergency planning on a collaborative basis. Overall, it was important to me that we focus on things that we need to focus on as a City; but I was concerned that we might be

reinventing the wheel for things that the County will need to do or may have done already. I think this was a very good meeting to separate out those issues that we need to focus on versus the issues the County will be focusing on as part of the emergency planning for Lincoln County. I appreciate the County's participation in this meeting.

- Participated in a meeting with Richard Dutton, Derrick Tokos and Tim Gross to discuss fiber optic development within the City of Newport. Richard has been following several communities, which have made a priority to extend fiber optics to every address within their political unit. I have seen similar efforts in other communities undertaken. The benefits of such a program is that it truly makes the community connected for purposes of data with the rest of the world. This in itself can be a good marketing tool. On the other hand, the role of the City in being the provider or facilitating the financing of such a program would need to be very carefully examined. As a follow-up to this meeting, I suggested that Richard take a look at our current providers to determine whether the private sector may be undertaking steps to move us in this direction. This is just a concept at this point that will certainly need a much closer look in the future.
- Participated at a luncheon with the representatives of the Newport Police Association Board and Chief Miranda.
- Met with Department Heads to discuss the duties of our new HR position. It is my intent that this position be a higher level position within the organization than the way it was treated in the past. The HR Specialist will be participating in all staff meetings since this position provides direct services to all departments. There was concurrence that this position should take the lead in coordinating the hiring processes to assure things are being done on a correct basis, regardless of the department attempting to hire someone. The HR position will play a role in all disciplinary situations that may occur in any department. We need to develop some more uniform processes since many of these functions have been handled differently in different departments in the past. Departments need to play a role in the hiring process, but should not be running the hiring process. I am looking forward to getting this position reestablished within the City and I think it will play a very valuable role in servicing our various departments, and creating more consistency in how we handle various employment matters within the City of Newport.
- Derrick Tokos and I spent a couple of hours touring the Urban Renewal Agency South Beach District to make sure I had a clear understanding of exactly where things are going to be located as part of the plan. This is a very exciting plan that will certainly reshape South Beach to accommodate future development. I do believe this Urban Renewal District will play a major role in transforming this part of the community, and enhancing investment within South Beach.
- Had a meeting with various staff people on the license procedure for medical marijuana. Our ordinance has now taken effect, and I wanted to make sure that had a clear process internally as to how we are going to administer any applications for medical marijuana facilities. I did draft operational rules that we implanted so that we can handle these applications in a fair and equitable and timely manner.

- Participated in a meeting of the City's retirement trustees. The investment of our retirement fund continues to see significant growth with the improvements of the investment climate. This is a significant turnaround from the challenges faced by the retirement fund following the economic crisis. We did have discussion as to whether the retirement trustees should be playing a role in reviewing the contracts for actuaries that are utilized to calculate the assets and liabilities of our pension funds. In my past job, the retirement board was responsible for overseeing the contracts with the actuaries. This is something we will discuss at a future retirement board meeting.
- Had a meeting with Lester LeCasse sharing his thoughts about the Airport. Les' general conclusion is this more a matter of personalities than any significant functional issues with the operation of the Airport. I appreciated him providing me some specific comments on the draft report as well.
- Met with Myrna Azar regarding the condemnation of her property in Newport due to it being an unsafe property. This building has been slated for demolition; however, I have asked Speer Hoyt to review the entire file on this property to make sure there are no legal issues with us ultimately proceeding with demolition of this structure. Up to this point, work has been done to address various safety issues, as well as removing asbestos from the structure. The structure is regularly broken into and there are holes in the roof on the main structure from deterioration of the roofing components. There is significant rot in other parts of the structure. I indicated to Ms. Azar that I would provide a summary of my findings to her indicating where we will go with this project. I will do that after the review has been completed by Speer Hoyt so that I can properly advise Ms. Azar what the next step will be regarding this property.
- Bob Gazewood, Mike Murzynsky, Melissa Roman and I met regarding the Airport Project budgeting. As with the CPW Projects, we are separating out the major capital outlay funding from operational funding for the Airport. Bob Gazewood is preparing a budget amendment that will establish a budget for the remaining part of the runway construction, as well as for the fixed base operator building repairs and T-hangar repairs for consideration as part of a capital outlay budget amendment carrying over unspent funds from the previous fiscal year.
- I was on vacation from Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> through Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. I came back to work on agenda items on Tuesday evening, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Overall it was nice to see family in Michigan; however, both Angela and I were anxious to get back to Newport following our vacation trip. While we had a good time in Michigan, Michigan did send me back with a nasty cold, which I am still struggling with, and swimmer's itch, which is also not much fun!
- Met with Mark Miranda and Jason Malloy regarding a personnel issue within the Police Department. In this particular case, the officer subsequently resigned from his position.
- Met with Councilor Allen regarding the evaluation committee's efforts in developing process for evaluating the City Manager. As I indicated at the City Council meeting, I think the committee did a great job in pulling together a report and as indicated the evaluation committee will meet one more time with me to fine tune this report.

- Met with Mike Murzynsky and Kay Keady regarding a water customer that has not been current with their water bill since 2011 based on an arrangement that was made with a previous Finance Director. This is a property owner that had a water line leak after the meter, but before the house, who has periodically made temporary repairs, which then resulted in future leaks occurring. In the last water billing cycle, the meter was showing a usage that would generate a \$2,000 bill for the month. Public Works has turned that water off. This should bring the issue to a head, so that we can deal with a final resolution to this problem that has been lingering for a number of years.
- Met with Interim Fire Chief Rob Murphy to discuss issues that should be part of the upcoming negotiations with the fire unit.
- Attended the Oregon Coastal Caucus in Florence, Oregon, on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Overall this was a rather remarkable conference with many of the power players of the Oregon political scene present. Mayor Roumagoux joined the conference on Thursday due to a meeting that she had in Portland on Wednesday with OMSI.
- There was session on the Oregon Resilience Plan in Tsunami Preparedness that included Bonnie Henderson, author of the Next Tsunami, Living on a Restless Coast, Tom Horning, of Horning Geosciences, Heidi Moawade, Public Safety Advisor to Governor Kitzhaber and Jim Rue, Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development. The State has developed the Oregon Resilience Plan, which is a 50 year plan in order to have the State of Oregon prepared for a major Cascadia event. While 50 years seems like an extensive period of time in order to fully implement a plan, with the nature of the changes in how we design buildings and places, it will take a couple of generations in order to really prepare Oregon for the big event. Currently in the event of a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami, it is projected that areas on the coast may not have water for one to three years and for a minimum of six months for electricity.
  - Japan, who has been preparing for earthquakes for the past 50 years. had non tsunami areas back in operation in weeks not years. It was indicated that cities need to pay attention in their urban growth boundaries to make sure there is sufficient high land to develop critical infrastructure since anything located on low ground will be gone (hospitals, police stations, water treatment plants, etc.).
  - Bonnie Henderson indicated that plate tectonics was not thought about until the 1970's and the concept of this type of earthquake is still not something that is taught in schools. It was indicated that January 26<sup>th</sup> should be recognized for the last Cascadia event that occurred in 1900 to have communities keep focus on preparing themselves for the next major event. It was noted that legislation was proposed, but not approved allowing the use of a portion of room tax to fund tsunami plans for coastal communities since evacuation plans will deal with thousands of tourists along the coast. It was also indicated that funding to develop white papers for each coastal community is a very important.

- Jim Rue indicated that the land use guide for coastal communities has been published by the State. Also the State is restricting the use of public dollars for the construction of essential facilities in tsunami zones.
- Attended a session on economic analysis of rural and coastal Oregon. Mark McMullen, a State economist indicates that coastal area's loss of jobs is similar to what the Detroit metropolitan area experienced during this recession. He also indicated the coast has not lost population, just jobs. The coast is undergoing a shift from workers to retirees. In order to keep the coast competitive it will be important to improve transportation to the coast from the valley.
- Duncan Wyse, Executive Director of the Oregon Business Council, indicated that natural resources are coming back as an employer, but in a different way. Sustainability of natural resources is critical to avoid having huge peaks of production followed by depression conditions due to exhaustion of certain resources. During this presentation Dr. Ray outlined the importance of the creation of a Marine Studies Campus in Newport. As usual, Dr. Ray was very passionate about the impact this facility could have on the overall economy of the coast. Continue research will improve or enhance the sustainability of the resources that employ many people on the coast. He is also pursuing utilizing the Hatfield Center as a home base for a Pacific Research ship. He indicated that the Higher Ed. Committee evaluates the potential capital needs of all the universities, and they have ranked the Newport campus as number four in the state. In my discussions with Dr. Ray, following his presentation, he indicated that is normally within the fundable range; however, the political support of the legislature is essential.
- There were sessions on the impact of the tribes to the coastal area as well as a judicial review of natural resources and environmental law.
- Congresswoman Susan Bonamici provided a presentation to the group, as did Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden, Senator DeFozio, our own Congressman Kurt Schrader.
- There was a presentation on statewide solutions for regional economic development. It was indicated that regional solutions are becoming more institutionalized as part of the process to come up with collaborative prioritization of projects and to streamline the implementation of those projects. It was indicated that communities should embrace and bring before the regional solution teams big transformational projects. These are the types of things that will help shape Oregon in the future.
- Dick Pedersen, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, indicated he continues to focus his department personnel on outcomes not process. While it may be difficult for regulators to de-emphasize process, the important thing is that the end outcome will be best to accommodate the project and to accommodate its impact on natural resources.
- There was a spirited discussion on how to address the work force skills gap, with a general indication that the mandatory testing is not working in

development of an entrepreneurial thinking workforce going forward in the future.

- There was a presentation on the ocean and natural resource policy implementation with some of the concerns being acidification, which was first detected by OSU in 2007. Robert Cowan indicated the development of a campus on Newport will facilitate this type of labor intensive research that is necessary to determine the causes and ways to address these types of issues.
  - Mayor Roumagoux introduced State Senator Betsy Johnson and Senator Ron Wyden as part of that presentation. As perhaps you heard, Senator Arnie Roblan, who coordinates this significant educational event was so anxious to get going that he forgot that Mayor Roumagoux was to do the formal introductions. Senator Roblan's aide, Rosie Shatkin, brought Mayor Roumagoux back around the stage and recruited Representative Gomberg to bring a message up to Senator Roblan, indicating he had screwed up. Senator Roblan very graciously indicated he had made a major screw up and invited Sandy to sit with the panel and to do the introductions unconventionally after the session had started. Overall, Mayor Roumagoux and the City of Newport got much more attention than we would have had the introductions had gone off as scheduled.
  - There were discussions on the challenges of siting wave energy and wind energy resources as it impacts commercial fishing.
  - There was a session on a role that rural development can play for communities and startup energy firms to provide low interest loans and or grants to facilitate a variety of types of municipal and/or private developments within eligible areas.
  - Overall it was truly an exceptional conference. If City Council members have not attended this in the past, I would encourage you to consider it in the future. This is a good opportunity to touch base with the entire coastal legislative folks from local units of government, counties, the State and Federal officials as well. There are many of the Governor's department directors present at this meeting. I was truly impressed with the scope and detail of what Senator Roblan coordinated as part of the Oregon Coastal Caucus bringing these folks together.
- Peggy Hawker and I participated in a conference call with Christy Monson on our Charter Franchise. I indicated to Christy to put a position letter together indicating that we are willing to renew the existing franchise with two specific changes. One would be the requirement for notification if the franchise is being acquired by another company; and a second would be language that would clearly indicate what would happen if cable infrastructure is abandoned in-rights-of-way.
  - Participated in the Employee Barbeque. We had a pretty good turnout of employees enjoying the food brought by various department heads for this event. Rob Murphy took the lead as the hotdog and hamburger chef, while Peggy Hawker was the primary coordinator of the entire event. Others volunteered as well to pull this event off. I appreciate the number of Council members joining us to participate in the barbeque.

- Met with Joyce Gaffin regarding concerns over the potential loss of trees as part of the South Beach Urban Renewal Projects. Derrick Tokos and I reassured Joyce that we are well aware of the importance that trees have in this area and the instructions to the engineers designing this project is that impact of the improvements will be minimal on any existing trees. We agreed with Joyce that trees certainly help make the landscape of this part of the community, and that there would be careful consideration if any trees have to be removed as part of this project. She seemed pleased that her message regarding the trees has got through to Derrick and myself.
- I had the opportunity to do a ride around with the Police Chief on a Saturday evening. This was a beneficial opportunity to look at many of the same things that we see every day from the Police Officers perspective. I did provide a critical assist in picking up illegal signs in the right-of-way as the Chief was delivering subpoenas and participating in a license motorcycle stop, and other activities. The Chief has an open invitation for the Council to participate in a ride along with department personnel.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- I will be out of the office on the afternoon of Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> to head to Portland to pick up Angela's niece, who will be spending the next week with us in Newport.
- City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> in observation of Labor Day
- The first City Council meeting in September will be held on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> due to the Labor Day Holiday
- Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 AM, the City Council is scheduled to for interviews for candidates for City Attorney. Please keep the entire morning free for these interviews.
- Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM, in Conference Room A, City Hall will be hosting a book signing by former City Manager, Don Davis. It would be great if the Mayor and City Council members can stop by in order to buy one of Don's books and get it autographed.
- I will be out of the office from Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> to attend the ICMA Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Angela and I will be leaving Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> with the first couple of days taking a little vacation time with family in Eastern Tennessee. The conference begins on Saturday and runs through Wednesday. I will be designating an Acting City Manager in my absence. During the conference time, I will be available by cell phone and I will periodically checking e-mails
- The City Council has previously excused my attendance from the Council meeting on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Prior to leaving for my conference, I will have prepared agenda reports for the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I would request that any Department Heads that have any items for this agenda to get them to me by the end of the day on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> so I can work on the reports on Monday evening and Tuesday prior to reporting.

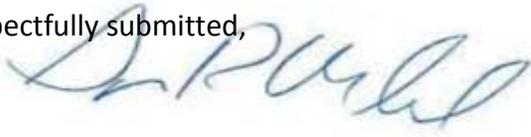
- The Oregon League of Cities Annual Conference will be held in Eugene on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Currently, Mayor Roumagoux, Councilor Beemer and Councilor Sawyer are registered for the event. Councilor Allen is attending one day of the event. Also City Recorder, Peggy Hawker, and I are registered for the event as well.
- Election Day is Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. We currently have six candidates for City Council, and two for Mayor. I wish all the candidates good luck in the upcoming election. As you are aware, as City Manager I am prohibited from participating in any election activities for any declared candidates for office. I am not permitted to endorse any candidates or indicate and favor one candidate over another. This is the season good City Managers and Department Heads need to stay away from any political aspects of the election. I am pleased that the incumbents are feeling good enough about the direction that the City is headed to consider for running for reelection. I look forward working with those who are elected on November 4<sup>th</sup> to continue leading the City in a positive, and constructive direction.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attached is a letter from President Edward J. Ray of the Oregon State University expressing appreciation for the action the City Council took regarding the development of a Marine Science Campus at Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport
- Attached is a page from the City of Newport Police Department Facebook site. Please note at this time they had 2,024 likes
- Attached is an e-mail from Ted Smith from March taking note that our employees are not only concerned about the City during their work day, but on weekends as well
- Attached is the news article from the "Polk County Itemizer-Observer" indicating the City of Dallas is going paperless on agenda and other business transactions
- Attached are two articles on the amazing winner that I was able to miss in Sault Ste. Marie and its impact on the start of the shipping season. The Sault locks at Sault Ste. Marie are where the thousand foot ore freighters are transported from Lake Superior down to the Lake Huron level. The shipping season opens by Federal law on March 25<sup>th</sup>. A week into the season no ships had passed through the Sault locks, which is unheard of. I do appreciate the Newport City Council for giving me the opportunity to enjoy a very different type of winter here on the Newport Oregon Coast!
- I have also included an article out of the "Sault Evening News" on the selection of my replacement in Sault Ste. Marie. I was very pleased that after nearly 22 years with the City, the Commission commented in this article that my replacement is like a "young Spencer Nebel".

This concludes my rather length, but extremely summarized status report for an almost five month period. I do apologize for allowing these reports to get way behind. I am extremely happy this ugly little task is completed and will try to provide current status reports to the Council generally on a twice a month basis, or occasionally once a month basis.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Nebel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Spencer R. Nebel, City Manager  
Newport, Oregon



**Office of the President**

Oregon State University, 600 Kerr Administration Building, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2128  
Phone 541-737-4133 | Fax 541-737-3033

August 7, 2014

Sandy Roumagoux, Mayor  
Spencer R. Nebel, City Manager  
City of Newport  
169 S.W. Coast Highway  
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Ms. Roumagoux and Mr. Nebel,

Thank you for your letter conveying the support of the Newport City Council for Oregon State University's proposed development of a Marine Studies Campus at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. I am pleased to receive such a positive show of support and interest at this early stage in our planning.

A strong commitment from the City of Newport is an important step in creating a productive, highly collaborative partnership between Oregon State and the entire Oregon Coast community. I appreciate your leadership in helping to foster strong economic and educational opportunities for the Coast and, indeed, for all of Oregon, as the Coast is such an essential resource for the well-being of the entire state.

Your explicit offer to work with community leaders throughout Lincoln County to address the challenges of meeting housing needs for the campus' staff and students is particularly important in ensuring strong community support and capitalizing on the project's benefits.

I truly look forward to working closely with you and the City Council in developing the Marine Studies Campus in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed", with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Edward J. Ray  
President

cc: Dr. Robert K. Cowen, Director, Hatfield Marine Science Center



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What have you been up to?



Newport Police Dept, Oregon shared a link.

Posted by Nicky Post · June 20



Suspect in Staples robbery arrested 06/19,2014.

<https://local.nexa.com/alert/5219668/>

On June 19, 2014, the Newport Police Department requested the public's assistance in identifying a robbery suspect. Within an hour of the request, an anonymous citizen contacted the Newport Police

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## Spencer Nebel

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**From:** Ted Smith  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:40 PM  
**To:** Spencer Nebel  
**Subject:** Great Employee

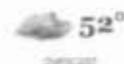
Spencer, just a note to let you know about the caliber of some of the City's employees. Jan Eastman – Library – picks up trash and litter in and around the City Hall parking lot almost every Sunday. She does this voluntarily and without fanfare. I noticed her this past Sunday while exiting the Rec Center parking lot. She had a bucket and a stick and was fishing litter out of the bushes. Jan is a part-time employee who give 150% all the time.



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## City hall may go paperless

Dallas eyeing move to save time, money



Photo by Jolene Guzman

Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin uses a tablet similar to those he would like to buy for the City Council and perhaps the planning commission in an effort to go "paperless."

Jolene Guzman  
April 22, 2014

DALLAS — City Manager Ron Foggin wants to create a new culture around Dallas City Hall — a paperless culture.

"We are trying to develop policies and procedures that don't require that we print as much paper," Foggin said. "Obviously, the world is going in a direction that suggests that we should be paperless."

Reducing the amount of paper used at city hall doesn't just save trees, but also money and staff time, Foggin contends.

The shift began last year, when the city began offering online bill pay. With that came the option of customers forgoing receiving a paper bill in the mail.

"We've had quite a few people choose to do that," Foggin said. "That saves, of course, printing costs ... and it also save us the mailing costs."

Next, the city will move to reducing the size, and eventually eliminating altogether, printed meeting material packets.

Last month Dallas City Council began receiving the new version of "meeting minutes" or the typed summary of public meetings. It consisted of brief "action" minutes, listing the time each agenda item was discussed and when action was taken and an audio recording of the meeting. That replaces the multiple typed pages included in the meeting packets previously.

Foggin's goal is to purchase technology — likely a tablet computer — for councilors and possibly members of the planning commission, to review meeting material without using paper. He is working with Polk County, which provides the city's information technology services, to determine which type of tablet is best.

Foggin estimated he could outfit the council and planning commission for less than \$500 per unit. Figuring in the cost of paper, printing and staff time to prepare the packets, he said the return on investment would take about two years, possibly less.

Foggin estimates for what the tablets will be used for — meeting packets — they wouldn't have to be replaced for about five years.

Transitioning to a paperless environment also means the city can more easily post information online, including meeting recordings.

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Around the Circle This Week: March 28, 2014

## "Horrible" Ice Conditions Stall Shipping Season

by Phil Bencomo March 31, 2014



NASA/NOAA

Lake Superior remained nearly 90 percent ice-covered on Monday. No laker has yet reached the Soo Locks a week after the March 25 opening.

Nearly a week into the shipping season, ice on Lake Superior has sent two vessels – including an icebreaker – limping back to port, and no laker has yet reached the Soo Locks.

Part of a cutter-led convoy that left western Lake Superior in the middle of last week, the 1,000-foot barge *Presque Isle* developed cracks in its hull from repeatedly pushing through ice. The ship returned to Duluth on Friday to repair the damage, whose severity isn't yet known.

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The freighters *Cason J. Callaway* and *John G. Munson*, led by the U.S. Coast Guard heavy icebreaker *Mackinaw*, continued east across the Lake, but it's been extremely challenging, says Randy Elliott, a U.S. Coast Guard vessel traffic manager in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

"They're 15 to 20 miles south of Michipicoten Island," says Randy. "Their goal is to make it to Whitefish Point tonight, and that's probably 50-50."

"The ice is very solid all through Whitefish," he adds. It's more than 4 feet thick in some places, with 8-foot windrows, and Lake Superior remained about 90 percent ice-covered on Monday.

The ships may not reach Sault Ste. Marie for several more days. Once there, they'll still have to traverse the ice-choked St. Marys River. Three upbound lakers are waiting near the lower river for the downbound vessels to pass through.

The ice also knocked out the 140-foot icebreaker *Morro Bay* last week as it worked in the Thunder Bay harbor with the *Katmai Bay*. After it lost rudder control, the ship had to be towed to Duluth by its counterpart, with assistance on the final leg from the cutter *Alder*. Divers found that the *Morro Bay's* rudder was hanging on by a single bolt. It's not yet known how long the repairs will take.

Rather than trying to cross the Lake, the *Mesabi Miner* hunkered down in the Twin Ports over the weekend after delivering coal to Taconite Harbor. The ship had planned to load more coal in Superior and then leave for Marquette.

"There are a number of vessels in delay all over the Great Lakes," says Randy. "If you're going in or out of [Lake] Superior, conditions are horrible."

At this time last year, an oceangoing vessel had already transited the entire Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system and reached Duluth. The *Federal Hunter's* March 30 arrival in the Twin Ports was the earliest ever by a saltie. This year, the St. Lawrence Seaway just opened to traffic today.

To assist on the upper Great Lakes, the Canadian Coast Guard has dispatched the heavy icebreaker *Pierre Radisson*, a vessel that normally works in the Atlantic. It's expected to arrive in three or four days.

*Correction: The Mesabi Miner transported coal to Taconite Harbor, Minnesota, from Superior, Wisconsin. It did not load cargo at Taconite Harbor.*

Tags

Lake Superior Maritime Shipping

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michele | Kitchi-Gami Almanac - The Name

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Lake Superior Magazine on Facebook

By Associated Press

April 08, 2014 1:00PM

Print Page

## Crews work to clear Great Lakes shipping pathways

U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard crews kept up their battle Monday to clear pathways for vessels hauling vital raw materials on the ice-clogged Great Lakes, where a shipping logjam forced a weeklong shutdown of the nation's largest steel factory.

Traffic remained largely at a crawl after a winter that produced some of the heaviest ice on record across the five inland seas, where more than half the surface area remained solid this week. Icebreaking ships slogging across Lake Superior were still encountering ice layers 2 feet to 3 feet thick. In some areas, wind and wave action created walls of ice up to 14 feet high.

United States Steel Corp.'s plant in Gary, Ind., had resumed limited operations after receiving a shipment over the weekend of iron ore from a company mill near Detroit, which was sending one additional load, spokeswoman Courtney Boone said.

Two ships were scheduled to arrive today with ore from mines in northern Minnesota following a two-week voyage across Lake Superior, which ordinarily would take three days.

Other companies were hoping their supplies would be adequate to avoid significant disruptions.

"Nobody's stockpile situation is very good," said Glen Nekvaail, a spokesman for the Lake Carriers' Association, which represents companies that operate 57 U.S.-flagged freighters on the Great Lakes. "It's still very slow sledding."

Only three ships were able to haul coal on the lakes in March, their cargos combining for 102,000 tons — down 70 percent from the same month in 2013, he said. Coal trade was 54 percent below the long-term first-quarter average.

The Gary Works mill generates steel for industries such as construction and auto manufacturing. Production resumed at one of the mill's three furnaces after Sunday's shipment was received, Boone said. The Gary Works is capable of producing 7.5 million tons of steel per year.

U.S. Steel was able to operate off stockpiles for some time before the ice began affecting production, Boone said.

Charles Bradford, a steel industry analyst, said the company should have done better planning even though this winter was among the harshest in recent memory. At one point, ice extended across 92 percent of the Great Lakes, falling just short of the record set in 1979.

"They know that every winter the Great Lakes freeze over," Bradford said. Boone declined to comment.

The shipping season officially began two weeks ago with the opening of navigational locks on the St. Marys River connecting Lakes Superior and Huron, a bottleneck for vessels hauling iron ore and coal to manufacturers and electric power plants. But just one convoy of vessels — including two icebreakers and the two ships hauling iron ore — had traversed Superior with loads of freight.

Two other coal haulers were docked in Superior, Wis., waiting to make deliveries to a power plant in Marquette, Mich., said Mark Gill, director of vessel traffic service for the U.S. Coast Guard in Sault Ste. Marie. Five empty vessels were expected to begin crossing Lake Superior on Tuesday to pick up iron ore.

The We Energies Presque Isle power plant in Marquette was operating just three of its five generating units to conserve coal until more arrives, spokesman Barry McNulty said. Even so, there wasn't enough demand to disrupt service, he said. The plant serves about 22,000 customers, mostly in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

DTE Energy, which operates five coal-fired plants in southeastern Michigan, has dealt with dwindling stocks by taking some units out of production for maintenance ahead of schedule and making up for the loss by buying power from the grid, spokesman Scott Simons said.

"This will hold us over until we can rebuild our supplies," Simons said.

General Motors has not had any delays or material shortages because of Great Lakes shipping problems, spokesman Tom Henderson said.

Nine U.S. Coast Guard ships are capable of breaking ice but only one, the Mackinaw, is equipped to deal with the thickest formations, Gill said. The Canadian Coast Guard dispatched two heavy-duty vessels to assist.

About three-quarters of Lake Superior, the largest and deepest of the Great Lakes, remained ice-covered. Gill estimated it would be about two weeks before the surface is clear enough for freighters to make the crossing without an icebreaker escort.

Even then, the icebreakers probably will be on duty well into May and possibly as late as Memorial Day.

"We'll be constantly on search-and-destroy missions, finding big pieces of ice and breaking them into smaller pieces," Gill said.



PHOTO: PHOTO COURTESY OF COAST GUARD AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY

This photo shows the crew of Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw escorting the Cason J. Callaway on Lake Superior near Whitefish Point April 3.

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By Scott Brand

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## City selects new manager

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With his educational background and experience, Oliver Turner convinced the Sault Ste. Marie City Commission to give him a formal interview for the city manager position.

His performance in Tuesday's sessions sealed the deal as the commission unanimously selected him for the post at a special session early today.

"I like the idea of getting an up-and-comer in city management rather than a sun-setter," said Commissioner Don Gerrie before the vote was taken.

Gerrie's comments were reflected time and again by his fellow board members with the phrase "a young Spencer Nebel," tossed around on multiple occasions.

That unofficial stamp of approval, along with the citizen panel and staff panel support, provided the commission with an easy choice.

"I think we are all on the same page," said Bauer before the vote. "If we can all agree on this, that speaks volumes."

Bauer also pointed out that the city was not locked in to either candidate heading in to the morning session.

"If he wasn't the right guy we'd re-open it," said Bauer, indicating there was no deadline and the search would have continued had the commission not been impressed by this candidate.

Turner, originally from Ohio, has been the village manager of Almont, Mich. for the last three years and holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Toledo and a certificate degree in Municipal Administration. He is a certified nuclear pharmacy technician and has previously served as general manager with BP Oil.

The Michigan Municipal League's Alan Bakalarski, serving as a search consultant for the city, urged the commission to utilize a conditional job offer clause with stipulations including a background investigation, site visit, drug and alcohol screening, in addition to a physical and contingent upon the successful negotiation of an employment agreement.

Of the nearly two dozen candidates that applied for the city manager position, Turner was one of two that were invited for a formal interview on Tuesday. The other was Kurt Perron.



Oliver Turner

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