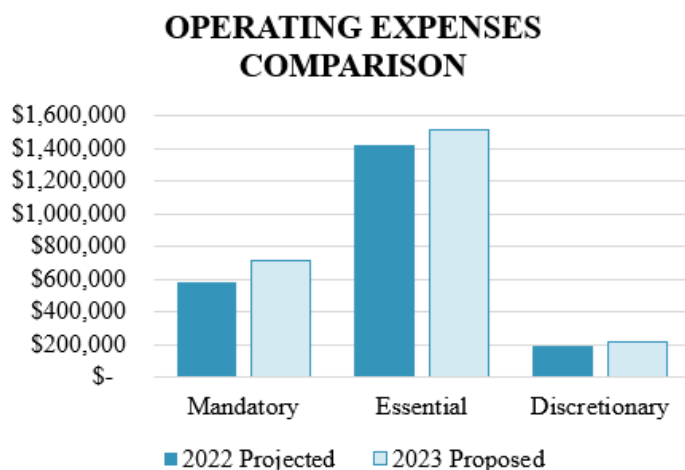


TOWN OF WOODWAY

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

COUNCIL ADOPTS A 2023 BUDGET

The Council, Town staff, and I have been very busy over the past couple of months with in-depth discussions regarding the Town's 2023 budget. The process began with an evaluation of our costs, line by line, including developing projections based on recent & historical trends, regulatory & contractual obligations, revised priorities and expectations, and new one-time revenues and/or expenses. While this process sounds complex, the Town has few significant revenue sources, our police and fire contracts account for a substantial portion of our expenditures, and the Town is very leanly staffed. As shown below, changes in our budget primarily result from increased expenditures in mandatory and essential functions.



We project that the Town will end 2022 with an

operating budget surplus of about \$355,000. In contrast, we project that the Town will have a deficit of about \$200,000 next year. There are several reasons for this difference, including two reasons that were COVID-related.

1. The federal government, in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local governments, adopted the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in 2021. The Town received \$194k in ARPA funds in 2022. These funds are no longer available in 2023.
2. The state also made a temporary change in the law due to COVID, related to Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET). The change, which is effective only until the end of 2023, provides the Town with more flexibility in how it uses certain revenues. This flexibility has been greatly beneficial to our operating budget. However, the amount of funds that we are able to use in our operating budget next year will decrease by \$124,000 from 2022.
3. In this more inflationary environment, the 2023 budget reflects significant increases in the Town's costs, including public safety contract costs, salaries and benefits, and insurance coverage costs. In

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SAVE THE DATE!
THE WOODWAY TOWN FAIR WILL BE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023

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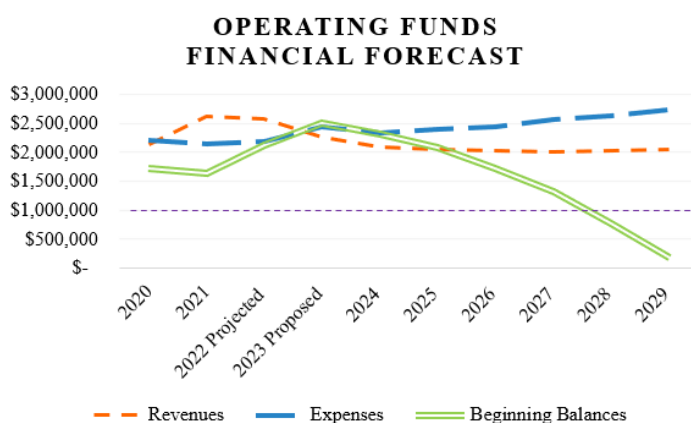
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MAYOR'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

contrast, the growth in the Town's largest source of revenue (property tax revenue) is limited by state law to approximately \$11,000 next year (1%).

4. Anticipating a potentially slowing economy, we have more conservatively estimated the Town's revenue for 2023, including sales tax and permit fee revenue.
5. The 2023 operating budget also includes \$26,000 for required state financial and accountability audits and a \$90,000 loan to the stormwater fund to pay for a state mandated update to our stormwater comprehensive plan. The loan will be repaid by the stormwater fund over the next three years.

Overall, the projected deficit next year reflects a return to the longer-term trend of an ongoing structural deficit hidden by the temporary change in state law and grants that we received from the federal government.



At the public hearings on the budget, Council received testimony from a resident who expressed a desire to reduce service levels to reduce expenses. Specifically, he suggested that Council:

- Attempt to renegotiate our police contract to reduce police coverage, staffing, and cost.
- Attempt to renegotiate our fire contract to pay a rate that is based on population.

- Reduce Public Works staff costs by contracting out for landscaping services.

Council understood and considered each of these suggestions. They rejected the first two.

1. *Police.* First and foremost, the Council and I do not agree with the premise that our police staffing level is excessive. We also are not persuaded by the hypothetical, unrealistic estimates of potential savings included in the proposed solution. Most importantly, based on an analysis of other similar cities in the region, we believe that our cost for the high-quality police services that the Town receives is very reasonable.

For background, we entered into a contract for police services with the City of Edmonds in 2019. The contract states that Edmonds will provide the Town with the same level of service, with a few exceptions, as it provides to its residents. In addition to the contract with Edmonds, the Town employs five officers (one of whom is our chief) who are commissioned officers at other cities. Each of them, including the chief, work part-time for the Town (approximately 22 hours a month each). Their focus is to provide a more visible presence through patrol and traffic enforcement – perhaps the most requested services that the Town provides.

Of note here, Edmonds specifically rejected the continuation of a prior contract, wherein the Town paid Edmonds on a per call basis. They felt that such an arrangement did not reflect the true cost of police service, which requires an officer, a vehicle, facilities, maintenance, and support whether there are calls for service or not. We are not aware of any alternative service provider who would provide the Town with services (let alone less costly services) under the type of arrangement proposed during the budget public hearings.

2. *Fire.* The argument was made during the budget public hearings was that our fire contract costs are excessive because they exceed what the residents within Shoreline Fire Department's service area pay on a per capita basis. The fundamental problem with this argument is that neither Shoreline Fire Department nor other fire districts in Washington charge their residents on a per capita basis.

Fire Districts are legal taxing districts that provide services primarily from property taxes, which are based on assessed value. The Shoreline Fire Chief has told us that they will not provide contract service on a per capita basis, as it is inequitable to their taxpayers. We have a stable, long-term contract with the Shoreline Fire Department, and we believe the costs and terms of the contract are fair and beneficial to Town taxpayers.

With regard to the third suggestion, that the Town contract for landscaping services, the Council and I agreed to research this issue further.

3. *Public Works:* I have directed our Public Works Director to work with a large landscaping company (that provides landscaping services to several cities) to give us an estimate to provide landscaping services to the Town. I also have asked our Director to talk with other cities about their experience with contracting. Depending on what we find, we will then decide whether to refine the specific scope of services and issue a request for proposals (RFP). Because many of our Public Works crew's duties

cannot be provided by a landscaping contractor, critical to this evaluation is whether this contracting option will provide actual cost reduction, rather than just an alternative way of providing a limited subset of services.

Conclusion

I hope that you find this information useful. The Council, staff and I have spent a substantial amount of time trying to educate our residents about the Town's finances and our operations. I know that you occasionally may receive information from the Town or from others that is confusing. The best way to clear up any questions that you might have is to contact us. The Council, our staff, and I would be happy talk with you. I also would encourage you to attend one of my "Coffee with the Mayor" meetings.



It's a great way to get to know what's going on in Town and to meet your neighbors in a relaxed, casual environment.

Mike Quinn

The Council values communication with residents and has many ways to share information with you. In addition to this newsletter sent in the mail, the Town has an electronic newsletter that goes out once each month. To sign up, visit our website: https://www.townofwoodway.com/how_do_i/email_notifications.php. You will find tons of exciting resources on our website, including contact information for staff and Town officials, walking maps, back issues of newsletters, a brief history of Woodway, and much more.

CATCH BASIN REPAIR

By Terry Bryant, Public Works Director

Most of the time, when you encounter Woodway's Public Works crew, they are performing routine daily tasks. Mowing, line trimming, weeding or picking up leaves. However, your Public Works Department does much more. In the past few years the crew has installed a pavilion in the Carla Nichols reserve, built miles of trails, installed a playground and an adult exercise circuit, installed and refurbished picnic tables, benches, garbage cans, pet waste stations, installed Town Hall landscaping and history board.



Most recently, the crew repaired a catch basin at the intersection of 226th Street S.W. and North Deer Drive. The catch basin had failed and created a sink hole. The crew was able to remove the excess debris, clean the catch basin, repair the catch basin and fill the sink hole. By having Town staff perform the work rather than having a contractor do the work, Public Works saved the Town a considerable amount of money.



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

FEBRUARY 18 & APRIL 15 | 9 - 10:30 AM

Please join Mayor Mike at Town Hall for the next two Coffee with the Mayor sessions. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and to talk with the Mayor and a Councilmember over coffee and doughnuts.

WELCOME, TONY HAMILTON!

Hello, my name is Tony Hamilton. I am the new part-time building inspector for the Town of Woodway. I grew up in Shoreline and went to Shorewood High. I attended Everett Community College, earning an ATA in Welding, and where I gained multiple Washington Association of Building Officials certifications in various welding disciplines.

My full-time job is with the City of Shoreline, where I have been for almost 15 years. I have had multiple roles with the City over that time, including four years as the City Urban Forester and currently as a Combination inspector. Shoreline is a great place to work, we are very busy with both light rail stations and the subsequent work in the rezoned areas around each station.

I live in Marysville with my wife of five years, Elise. We enjoy hiking and camping, with our favorite day hike being the Sul Duc hot springs in Olympic National Park. I am currently a member at the



Harbour Pointe Badminton Club, where I play three to four times a week. I am excited to work with the great staff at the Town of Woodway and look forward to serving the public as a member of the building team.

TWIN MAPLES RAIN GARDENS

By Terry Bryant, Public Works Director

In the Town's ongoing efforts to control stormwater and flooding in Twin Maples, two new rain gardens have been installed. These gardens are located on the east and west corners of 111th Place W. and 239th Place W. They are upstream of previously installed rain gardens. These stormwater collectors are designed to reduce or to eliminate downstream flooding.

Once completed, these rain gardens will replace failed catch basins/pipes that were installed in the 1960's. Rain gardens are a more cost-effective way to control stormwater while beautifying the community,



recharging the aquifer, providing habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, all while reducing the carbon footprint.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Jason Valentine, Interim Police Chief

The Woodway Police Department has undergone a period of transition over the past few months, as we have recently hired two new officers to fill existing vacancies. Our newest team members, Officer William Morris and Officer Curtis Kojima, seem to have hit the ground running. We are certainly lucky to have officers of this caliber and they have embraced the opportunity to work in such a supportive and welcoming community. Please feel free to introduce yourself when you see these officers out patrolling your town.



Left: Officer Curtis Kojima



Right: Officer William Morris

Traffic safety is a top priority for the Woodway Police Department and our officers remain committed to that effort. As a matter of fact, the number of traffic infractions issued by your Woodway officers to date has increased by over 25% in comparison with the same

period last year. We have sought to remain responsive to the concerns of community members in specific neighborhoods, while also deploying officers into the areas where traffic volumes are highest (such as Woodway Park Road). I would like to share two noteworthy incidents your Woodway officers have recently encountered during their patrols.

In September, one of our officers stopped a suspected DUI driver on Woodway Park Road after observing the vehicle speeding and swerving in the roadway. The driver, an Edmonds resident, exhibited signs of alcohol impairment and was found to have a suspended driver's license. The driver was subsequently arrested and transported to a local police precinct for processing.

In October, a patrol officer discovered a suspicious vehicle parked near Deer Creek Park. The vehicle was suspected to be stolen and the officer attempted to make contact with the occupants. The vehicle quickly fled the area upon seeing the officer. The officer later observed this same vehicle in a nearby jurisdiction and attempted a traffic stop. The vehicle fled from the attempted stop, eluding the officer. Due to current laws relating to police pursuits, the officer did not continue to pursue this particular vehicle. The investigation is ongoing and we are confident that the officer disrupted potential criminal activity that was to occur in the Town of Woodway that day.

These are just a few examples of the work your officers are performing while protecting and serving you here in Woodway.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any concerns or questions. We look forward to working collaboratively with our community to keep Woodway safe and hope to hear from you!

TOWN COUNCIL CORNER

General Government:

- Reviewed the 2nd quarter 2022 financial report.
- Reviewed and approved the 2023 Budget:
 - Held 3 public hearings: 2023 Revenue Sources, Preliminary 2023 Budget, and Final 2023 Budget.
 - Approved Resolution 2022-443: 2023 Property Tax.
 - Adopted Ordinance 2022-644: 2023 Budget.
- Approved Resolution 2022-440: Surplus Property.
- Approved Ordinance 2022-643: Investment Policy.
- Reviewed the 3rd quarter 2022 financial report.
- Approved Resolution 2022-442: Fee Schedule.
- Reviewed Ordinance 2022-645: 2022 Budget Amendment.
- Adopted Ordinance 2022-646: Salary Schedule.
- Approved the agreement with Snohomish County to relinquish real property interest in the Rucker Building.

Building & Municipal Services:

- Authorized the Mayor to execute the Building Official, Plan Review, and Building Inspection Services Contract with BHC Consultants.
- Did not approve Ordinance 2022-642: Prohibiting Short-Term Property Rental.

Land Use & Planning:

- Held a public hearing on the Upper Bluff Development Agreement Amendment.

Public Works & Lands:

- Awarded the 2022 Pavement Preservation project to JB Asphalt Paving.
- Accepted the bid with Stripe Rite for Restriping and Traffic Control Services.
- Recognized Public Works Crew Lead Scott Wynne for going above and beyond.
- Authorized the Mayor to execute the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan Update Contract with PACE Engineers.
- Authorized the Mayor to execute the Construction Administration and Inspection Services Contract with PACE Engineers for the 2022 Pavement Preservation project.

Public Safety:

- Approved Ordinance 2022-640: WMC Chapter 7.16: Town Criminal Code - State Statutes Adopted.
- Held an urban forest fire discussion with Fire Chief Matt Cowan.
- Adopted Ordinance 2022-641: WMC Chapter 7.14 - Unlawful Occupation of Public Property.

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTES

This summer, the Planning Commission began the process of updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Town is periodically required to review and update our Comprehensive Plan. The last update was completed in 2015.

During the update process, which will continue through June 2024, residents will have opportunities to review the proposed changes and to give comments regarding the update. The Planning Commission's next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 7 pm.



TOWN OF WOODWAY

23920 113th Place West

Woodway, WA 98020

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER



TOWN INFORMATION

TOWN HALL DIRECTORY:

Class	Code City
County	Snohomish
Population	1325
Business Hours	9 am to 1 pm Monday-Thursday
Permit Counter Hours	See website for details
Town Hall Phone	(206) 542-4443
Public Works Phone	(206) 542-0183
Website	www.townofwoodway.com
Email addresses	See staff & elected official contact information on our website
Mayor	Mike Quinn
Council Meets	1 st & 3 rd Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
Planning Commission Chair	Per Odegaard
Planning Commission Meets	1 st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

TOWN HALL STAFF:

Town Administrator	Eric A. Faison
Clerk-Treasurer	Heidi K. S. Napolitano
Dep. Clerk-Treas./Permit Tech	Kim Sullivan
Public Works Director	Terrance R. Bryant, Jr.
Public Works Crew	Scott Wynne
	Collin Harlow
Town Attorney	Greg Rubstello
Building Official/Plan Checker	Tom Phillips
Building Inspector	Tony Hamilton
Interim Chief	Jason Valentine
Fire Marshal	Derek LaFontaine
Town Planner	Bill Trimm
Town Engineer	PACE Engineers
Town Hearing Examiner	John Galt
EMERGENCY	911

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Brian Bogen, John Brock, Andrew DeDonker, Elizabeth Mitchell, & Rajeev Thakur

LOCATIONS OF THE TOWN BULLETIN BOARDS:

Woodway Park Road at Algonquin Road
Woodway Park Road at Deer Creek Park
Bella Coola Road west of Makah Road

Timberlane Road at 240th Street S.W.
114th Avenue W. at 239th Place S.W.
Willowick Road, north side