

TOWN OF WOODWAY

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

YOU'RE INVITED: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION – PART 2

Last year, I hosted a community conversation focused on public safety. It was both informative and productive. I want to follow up on some of the ideas coming out of the meeting. So, I'm hosting another community conversation at Town Hall on:

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 FROM 10 AM TO NOON.

This conversation will again feature Police Chief Jason Valentine and include an opportunity to talk about ideas to enhance public safety. You will hear from representatives of Flock Safety – a company that has license plate reader technology to help deter and solve crimes, particularly burglaries and mail theft. I also want to get some feedback on a few ideas related to speeding.



There are a couple of additional important topics that I need to bring to the forefront. I want to highlight concerns that I have about the Town finances and the need for additional funding soon through a community vote on a property tax levy. I also want to update you on an upcoming public hearing on the potential annexation of Point Wells.

TOWN PROPERTY TAX LEVY

In the last Whisper, I provided my annual update on the Town's adopted budget. As has become common in these messages, I highlighted the precarious nature of the Town's finances. Specifically, I repeated my serious concerns about the long-term structural deficit that the Town must endure because of state limitations on the Town's property tax revenue. This situation is not unique to Woodway—most cities in Washington are faced with a similar challenge.

Attempts to address this structural deficit by reducing expenses and service levels, as some might suggest, have been frustrated by the very limited nature of the Town's staffing and services. Public safety expenses consume almost 60% of the Town's operating budget revenue. The impact of a high inflationary environment has created additional challenges.

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Planning Commission Notes	3
Volunteer Opportunities	4-5
Point Wells Update	6
Coffee with the Mayor	6
Planning Commission Vacancy	7
Town Council Corner	7

SAVE THE DATE!

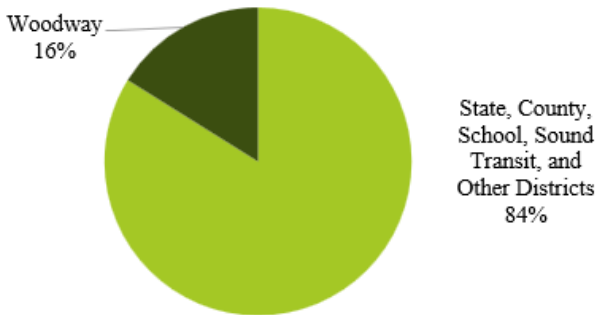
WOODWAY TOWN FAIR
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024

TOWN PROPERTY TAX LEVY, CONTINUED

Revenue

Town property owners currently pay the Town approximately 16% of their total property tax bill.

2024 Property Tax Distribution



\$6.88 per \$1,000 in assessed value	Total property tax rate (includes State, County, Schools, Sound Transit, and a couple other taxing districts)
\$1.11 per \$1,000 in assessed value	Town's property tax rate (which pays for police, fire, courts, jails, prosecution, emergency medical services, parks, public works, permitting, and a lot of state mandates).

The percentage of property taxes paid by our residents that stays in Woodway has declined by almost a third since 2010.

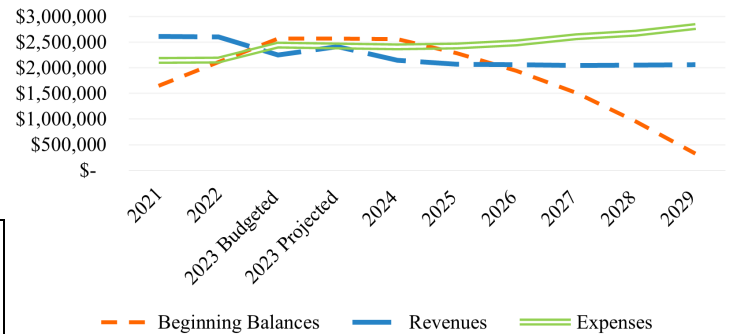
The amount of money that the Town collects in property tax revenue can grow by 1% a year (plus the value of new construction). This dollar limitation is fixed, even if property values increase by more than 1%. As a result, the Town collects about \$12,000 more in property tax each year.

Deficit

While, as shown above, the Town collects approximately \$12,000 more in property tax each year, the Town's police and fire contracts alone grow by more than \$30,000 a year. This increase does not include increases in other expenses, such as wages and

benefits, property and liability insurance, utilities, and fuel. The Town has relied on its reserves, a tax on water & sewer utilities, and state & federal grants to maintain service levels. These actions, however, have simply kicked the can down the road and largely masked the underlying growth in the annual deficit.

OPERATING FUNDS FINANCIAL FORECAST



Over the years, we have reported that our ability to continue this patchwork form of paying for Town services is coming to an end. Now, we are here.

Potential Ballot Measure

Town residents last approved a property tax levy increase to address this structural deficit in 2009. Property values and the cost to provide mandatory and essential services have increased dramatically since then. Because we have delayed incremental, annual increases for so long, the Town's average annual deficit over the next six years is approximately \$600,000. We cannot solve this problem through budget cuts without a significant effect on public safety.

The Town Council and I have made it a priority this year to develop a strategy to address the Town's deteriorating financial condition. Addressing this deficit will result in a proposal that will be an increase in the Town's property tax levy. However, because the Town's levy is only 16% of your total property tax bill

TOWN PROPERTY TAX LEVY, CONTINUED

and any proposal will likely be an increase over a six-year period, the annual increase will be a relatively small percentage of your total property tax bill.

Getting the Word Out

Communication on this complex and consequential topic is difficult. No one wants to pay more in taxes, and many have not given much thought to the details of the Town's finances or the limits the State places on all municipalities when it comes to paying for services their residents may desire. We're asking that you take a moment to learn about these details and the challenges they create for the Town. Then, we're asking that you

help us reach as many residents as possible to educate everyone on what it takes to keep Woodway independent and special for all of us.

We intend to host public meetings inviting all residents to learn more about Town operations, finances, and a possible levy. Of course, we will hold meetings at Town Hall, but please consider hosting a small meeting with your neighbors. This is a great way to get your questions answered and hear your neighbors' concerns. Town staff is happy to attend, and this kind of participation would be very valuable. Just send an email with the subject "Willing to Host" to mayor@townofwoodway.com.

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTES

The Washington State Growth Management Act requires cities, towns, and counties to update their Comprehensive Plans by December 31, 2024. The Town's current Plan was last updated in 2015, with revisions for the Point Wells area completed in 2020. The Plan's elements include Land Use; Transportation; Conservation; Community Facilities/Utilities; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; and Housing. The required update involves revisiting the Town's vision, goals, and policies and revising the various elements of the Plan where required and/or appropriate.

The Town's Planning Commission has been working diligently on drafting required and proposed amendments to the Plan. The most comprehensive revisions will be to the Housing element, due to changes in state law that require cities to increase housing density. For Woodway, that means revisions to the Town's Housing policies and regulations to allow additional housing on existing lots.

The Planning Commission is currently reviewing the Plan elements together with changes to the Town's development regulations. The Commission is scheduled to complete its review in June and present a draft for public comment and environmental review in July and August. The draft documents will be posted on the Town's website. Public hearings on the draft Plan and regulations are tentatively scheduled for September. All Planning Commission meetings, which are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 6 pm, include opportunities for public comments, both at Town Hall and online.

The Planning Commission has also discussed new floodplain regulations. They will be holding a public hearing on floodplain regulations at Town Hall on:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 AT 6 PM

Written and verbal public comments are welcomed during the hearing.

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS

The Mayor recently appointed two volunteer coordinators, Tim Cashman and Alethea Westover, to reinvigorate the Town's volunteer program. They have been hard at work planning events for 2024. Welcome, Alethea and Tim!

PRUNING THE ORCHARD AT KREBS MEADOW



JOIN US FOR THE NEXT VOLUNTEER EVENT

IVY REMOVAL IN WOODWAY'S PARKS

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

MEET AT TOWN HALL @ 8:30 AM

BECOME A WOODWAY VOLUNTEER!

Have you taken a trip to Krebs Meadow this past month? Or walked by the gazebo adjacent to Town Hall?

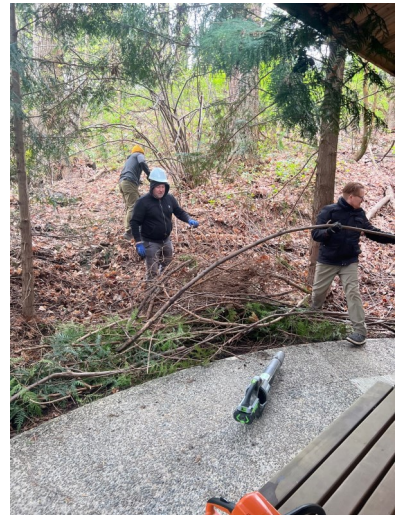
If you have, you will notice that there have been some welcome changes thanks to volunteer efforts in Woodway. Overgrown apple trees were pruned back in Krebs Meadow and the gazebo area was raked and tidied.

More events are on their way! Mark your calendars for this coming Saturday, April 13th at 8:30 am to meet up

at Town Hall for our annual ivy removal party! Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities like putting up flower baskets around the town.

If you are interested in being involved in future volunteer events, please sign up through the Town's email list at https://www.townofwoodway.com/how_do_i/email_notifications.php. Call Heidi at Town Hall if you need help with the sign up process: 206.542.4443.

GAZEBO CLEAN-UP



POINT WELLS UPDATE

Over the past 18 months, I have given updates on the Town's progress towards gaining the right to annex Point Wells. I have described it as a multi-step process. We started the process through conversations with the property owner and with our governmental partners – assessing each party's interests. Discussions with the property owner, while cordial and helpful, did not provide a path for a negotiated annexation and development agreement. As a result, we turned our attention to a negotiated agreement with our governmental partners.

After months of negotiations, last August, the Town, Snohomish County, the City of Shoreline, and Olympic View adopted an annexation agreement. The agreement was developed under a relatively new state law that allows the Town to annex Point Wells without the property owner's permission. The agreement recognizes that:

- The Town has been planning for the annexation of Point Wells for decades.
- All the parties agreed that an annexation by the Town would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the State's annexation laws.
- The agreement is consistent with the Town's existing, separate agreements with each of the parties.
- Each of the parties supported the Town's annexation of Point Wells.

Following adoption of the agreement, the Town submitted the agreement and an annexation petition to the County's Boundary Review Board last November.

The Board approved the petition on February 29. This was the final step that involved approval from a third party. The Town now has the right to annex Point Wells by ordinance of the Town Council.

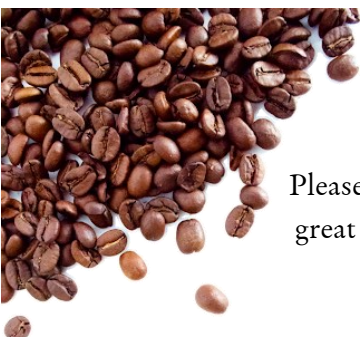


Next Steps

The next step in this process is a public hearing by the Town Council on an ordinance formally annexing Point Wells into the Town. The hearing is tentatively scheduled to be held at Town Hall on May 20, 2024, at 6 pm. Keep an eye out for further updates.

After the public hearing, Council can deliberate and vote on the ordinance. However, immediate Council action is not required. A final vote on the ordinance may or may not happen on the same day as the hearing.

If you have questions or comments (other than written comments for the public hearing), please feel free to email me at mayor@townofwoodway.com. Also, please feel free to check out our Point Wells Q&A, located on our Point Wells webpage on the Town's website.



COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

JUNE 15 & AUGUST 10 | 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.

TOWN COUNCIL CORNER

General Government:

- Held a study session to discuss budget, staffing, and public safety.
- Heard a presentation by Angela Harris & Brandon Baker, Port of Edmonds.
- Authorized the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Port of Edmonds grant application.
- Authorized the Mayor to sign the State Auditor's Office Data Sharing Agreement.
- Adopted Ordinance 2024-652: WMC 2.16 - Compensation of Officers & Employees.
- Discussed appointments to regional organizations.
- Adopted Ordinance 2024-653: WMC 1.04.100 - Scrivener's Errors.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-457: Facility Use Policy Update.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-458: Credit/Purchasing Card Policy Update.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-459: Asset Management Policy Update.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-460: Fee Schedule Update.

- Adopted Resolution 2024-461: Reserve Policy Update.
- Authorized the Mayor to execute the Banking Services Agreement with HomeStreet Bank.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-462: Authorized Signers on HomeStreet Bank Accounts.
- Reviewed the 4th Quarter 2023 Finance & Investment Reports.

Land Use & Planning:

- Authorized the Mayor to execute the Middle Housing Grant Contract with WA Dept of Commerce and make the associated expenditures.

Public Works & Lands:

- Adopted Ordinance 2024-654: WMC 11.01 - Storm and Surface Water Utility - Code Update.

Public Safety:

- Discussed pedestrian safety in Twin Maples.
- Discussed speeding throughout Town.

Building & Municipal Services:

- Adopted Ordinance 2024-655: 2021 I-Codes Adoption.

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

In March, longtime Planning Commissioner Jan Ostlund retired, leaving a vacancy. Thank you for more than 16 years of serving as a Planning Commissioner - you have helped shape the future of Woodway for generations to come. Jan's attention to detail and dedication to the Town will be greatly missed!

What does the Planning Commission do?

The Planning Commission makes recommendations to the Town council for changes and updates in the comprehensive plan and the zoning code. The Planning Commission also reviews various land use applications. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month at

6 pm. If you would like more information, please contact Mayor Quinn at mayor@townofwoodway.com.

Are you interested in filling the vacancy on the Planning Commission?

To apply for the open position, please submit a letter of interest and list of relevant experience to the Clerk-Treasurer by **1 pm on April 24**. Please email application materials to heidi@townofwoodway.com or drop them off at Town Hall. Planning Commissioners in Woodway are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. The new Planning Commissioner will be appointed and confirmed before the May 15 meeting.



TOWN OF WOODWAY

23920 113th Place West
Woodway, WA 98020

SPRING 2024 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	3 rd Wednesday, 6:00 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	Collin Harlow Kyle Gage
Town Attorney	Greg Rubstello
Building Official/Plan Checker	Tom Phillips
Building Inspector	Tony Hamilton
Police 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:

John Brock, Elizabeth Mitchell, Steven Mitchell, Rajeev Thakur, & Jim Willett

LOCATIONS OF THE TOWN BULLETIN BOARDS:

Woodway Park Road at Algonquin Road
Woodway Park Road at Deer Creek Park
Timberlane Road at 240th Street S.W.

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