

## Mayor's Report, 25 June 2024

I was hoping to ease into the summer with fewer meetings and a full staff, but things don't always go as planned. Last month I announced we had filled the PWs Maintenance Tech position, but unfortunately that did not last. Scott was a very hard worker, but he quit with no notice at the beginning of the month to be with his family out West. So, here we are once again reviewing applications and setting up interviews. In the interim, Commr Muzzone has dusted off his work clothes and is helping Jeff care for the town.

Our lobbyist has hit the ground running and is pushing a new \$250K Stormwater/Culvert proposal through the channels to ensure that it is on the docket for the consideration at the August legislative session, and then again in January when monies are approved. He is working closely with Senator Mayfield's office who will sponsor our request. This is a reallocation of the old Dayton Culvert and Bridge grant, but we can now focus on the Town's culverts and stormwater drainage.

One small note of interest is a change regarding the requirement of Form 6 Financial Interest statements for elected officials. In simple terms, a judge issued an injunction regarding Form 6, so as of mid-June, those of us who procrastinated can file Form 1 instead of the more intrusive financial statement Form 6. Not sure what happens next, but hopefully the legislature will reconsider the impact Form 6 had on small towns that depend on volunteers to govern.

June is the start of our Budget preparations for FY25. We received the information from BC Property Appraiser which is used to prepare our TRIM notice. I am quite optimistic that the residential tax burden will be lower for the upcoming year. We will be posting notices for Budget workshops and meetings through July and August and welcome your attendance. After receiving an initial Budget from the Finance Committee in July, the Commission reviews each line item, plans for the unexpected, and considers future Town needs. You may think these meetings are dry and boring, but I find them much more interesting than I did in the past when I wasn't paying close attention. It is a prime example of "the more you know, the more you want to know".

Since I mentioned our millage rate – this brings me to the June 10<sup>th</sup> SCLOC meeting we co-hosted with West Melbourne. West Melbourne spoke first and what an opportunity to show just how different we are from other cities. We presented a 3-minute video highlighting our community engagement, our fierce love and protectiveness of green space and our unique relationship with the AHF. The video elicits a physical response in me – pride and love – as I know we have remained true to our history and our community since our founding almost 70 years ago. If you haven't seen the video yet, it is posted on the AHF's homepage. Watch it and be reminded why we pay higher taxes to live in our green oasis where neighbors are friends and community is at the heart of it all.

As a reminder – I hope you consider participating in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade next Thursday at 9 AM. This is the first year being hosted by the Town instead of the AHF. It would be great to see lots of spectators lining the streets of Norman, West Pine and Hammock to encourage and enjoy this patriotic display. Join us afterward in the AHF Hall where you can vote for this year's winners, take photos with Uncle Sam, and enjoy some light refreshments.

We are also looking for volunteers to help place our 600!! American Flags around Town next Tuesday. A BIG thank you to all those who purchased these flags! Please see Commr Fred Anderson or his wife Dee if you are interested.

Thank you. Let's keep the conversation going!  
Sue Ditty, Mayor