


**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Philip Morley, County Administrator 

DATE: September 7, 2010

RE: Update on Negotiations for an Interlocal Agreement With the City of Port Townsend Concerning Proposition 1, Memorial Field and the Recreation Center: Possible Adoption

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The County is negotiating with the City of Port Townsend to develop an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) concerning funding for Memorial Field and the Port Townsend Recreation Center in the event Proposition 1 is approved by the voters on November 2. Staff will present to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) a status update on the negotiations, and if negotiations are complete by September 7, the BoCC may consider approving the ILA.

ANALYSIS:

Memorial Field is central to the athletic programs for three school districts plus numerous local sports leagues and sports camps, and is an important venue for events such as the Rhododendron Festival Carnival, car rallies, and others.

County budget cuts eliminated regular County maintenance of Memorial Field in 2010. These cuts would have closed the facility, except for voluntary and temporary maintenance support offered by the Port Townsend School District, Chimacum School District, Stapf Construction, and numerous other organizations and individual volunteers. While this has allowed Memorial Field to remain open in 2010, it is uncertain how long the facility can operate on voluntary labor.

The Port Townsend Recreation Center has historically provided an important, safe, supervised and constructive environment for the youth of the City and the County to come to after school on a drop-in basis, and to participate in classes and other structured recreation programs. The Recreation Center also has historically been an important community gymnasium facility for youth and adults.

County budget cuts closed the Recreation Center to much of its normal operations starting in 2010, including discontinuing the before and after-school drop in program, and ending open hours in the gymnasium.

County revenue continues to fall behind the cost of existing programs and services, and additional significant cuts will be necessary in 2011 and beyond. These additional cuts further jeopardize continued operation of Memorial Field, the Recreation Center, and other County parks and recreation programs.

The Board of County Commissioners adopted County Resolution 32-10 placing ballot measure Proposition 1 on the November 2, 2010 ballot. Proposition 1 asks voters whether to approve an increase in sales tax of 3/10th of one percent (0.3%, equal to thirty cents tax per one hundred dollar purchase) to fund public safety, youth and senior services, community services and basic government public services. As specified in Resolution 32-10, the revenue from Proposition 1 would reduce cuts to the sheriff, prosecutor and other public safety services, youth programs, juvenile services, senior services, community centers, public health and basic government services. Port Townsend would receive 40% of the revenue by law. It would be used to support similar services, including an agreement to dedicate a portion to support county parks and recreation for up to four years.

In Resolution 32-10, the Board of County Commissioners states "the County intends to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City whereby a portion of the City's share would be dedicated for up to four years to Memorial Field and the Port Townsend Recreation Center to support and restore their operation and maintenance, restore youth afterschool programs, and provide capital funds for repairs and improvements."

Similarly, the Port Townsend City Council adopted City Resolution 10-029, supporting placing Proposition 1 on the November 2, 2010 ballot, and directing the City Manager to negotiate the terms of an interlocal with the County on potential revenue sharing.

City and County representatives have been negotiating a draft Interlocal Agreement to define how a portion of the City's Proposition 1 funds would, should Proposition 1 pass, be dedicated to support operation and maintenance of Memorial Field and the Recreation Center, restore programming at the Rec Center, and help fund capital improvements to both facilities.

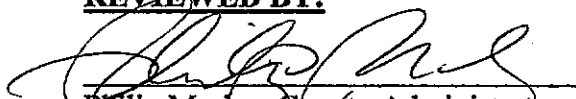
FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposition 1 is estimated to generate approximately \$425,000 per year for the City of Port Townsend. Depending on the details in the ILA, City funds dedicated under ILA would be used to resume normal operation and maintenance of Memorial Field and the Recreation Center, restore programming there, and help fund capital improvements to both facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board receive the update on City/County negotiations, give direction as appropriate, and if a draft Interlocal Agreement is ready by September 7, consider the ILA for potential adoption.

REVIEWED BY:


Philip Morley, County Administrator

9/2/10
Date