

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

From: Monte Reinders, Public Works Director 

Agenda Date: July 15, 2024

Subject: Recognition of Outstanding County Service – Mr. Robert “Bob” Wheeler

Statement of Issue:

The Board is asked to recognize Mr. Robert “Bob” Wheeler for the large role that he played in moving the Port Hadlock Wastewater project from plan to reality. Bob will be “retiring” from the position he has held at the County for the last four years, and this is an opportunity for the County to thank him for all that he has done. A letter of recognition is provided for the Board’s signature.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro’s & Con’s:

It would not be an exaggeration to say that without Bob’s work, the sewer project might not be under construction today. When the State of Washington provided initial design funding in 2020, it was clear that the County would need to acquire a talented project management team – easier said than done. Bob offered to help the County “for a while” despite having just retired from a successful career. This turned out to be four years of hard work seeing to the many needs of the project, much of it before any other staff could be hired. He did not need to take on this job, but he did it to help the community.

Bob understood that individual outreach to the many property owners in Port Hadlock would be essential. To that end, he has held hundreds of meetings (many of them in-person and on-site) with property owners, agency personnel, and other stakeholders. Bob also played a key role in many project phases including project permitting, financing, sewer ordinance development, design, technical details, and RFQs/RFPs. Through his connections and networking, he brought other professionals onto the design team at just the right time, and he was responsible for recruiting other project team members who continue to move this project forward today.

In summary, Bob’s contributions to this project have been critical to its success, and it would be hard to thank him enough for what he has done. We hate to see him leave our Public Works family, but we also want him to have more time to enjoy his other interests!

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

Priceless.

Recommendation:

Please recognize Mr. Bob Wheeler for his outstanding county service. To memorialize the County's appreciation, please sign the attached letter.

Department Contact: Monte Reinders, Public Works Director x242

Reviewed By:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date



Board of County Commissioners

1820 Jefferson Street

PO Box 1220

Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

To: Mr. Robert "Bob" Wheeler

From: Jefferson County Board of Commissioners
 Monte Reinders, Public Works Director/County Engineer

Date: July 15, 2024

Subject: Recognition of Outstanding County Service

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners would like to express its deepest gratitude for your hard work, dedication, and perseverance in helping to bring the Port Hadlock Wastewater project to fruition. This project has been a top priority of Jefferson County for over 20 years and you, Bob, have played a significant role in making it become a reality.

When funding started to materialize in 2020, the County found itself in desperate need of a highly qualified project manager. We knew that it would not be easy to find a person with the right combination of skills for this role, but you immediately offered to step in and help "for a while". You could have remained comfortably retired, but instead you chose to give back to your community despite the personal sacrifices this sometimes required. Four years has passed since then, and sewer construction is now well underway!

We count ourselves lucky to have had you on our team. Your positive attitude, even when faced with setbacks, is an example to us all. You have inspired confidence in the people you work with which makes us all want to keep trying harder. Your enthusiasm for meeting with property owners in the Port Hadlock community has been nothing short of outstanding. Finally, your presence here has been a key factor in recruiting and building our current project team, all of whom deeply respect and appreciate you.

It is with some sadness that we watch you depart from our county family, but also in our hearts we are happy that you will finally be able to enjoy the full retirement that you deserve. On behalf of the Port Hadlock community, the Public Works Department, and the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, we thank you for your service. Bob, you are one in a million!

Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

Kate Dean, Chair, Dist. No. 1

Heidi Eisenhour, Dist. No. 2

Greg Brotherton, Dist. No. 3



Bob and the "Golden Toilet" Award



Bob Awarding the "Golden Toilet"



Bob in his natural element – meeting with stakeholders



Bob with site plans. Giving a tour.