

Your Port Ludlow Village Council: Should We Dissolve?

In my September article for the Port Ludlow *Voice*, I noted that the PLVC Board of Directors would be evaluating potential changes to the structure of the board. I am now writing to share that the board has reluctantly concluded that there may be insufficient community financial support to maintain the existence of PLVC. I'm reminded of these lyrics from one of my favorite Joni Mitchell songs: 'Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone'.

Are you concerned about issues of water quality and sewer services? Abandoned boats in Ludlow Bay? Do you wonder how timber harvests might impact us in the future? Have you considered how this community might need to respond to major emergencies such as wildfire, earthquakes, severe storms or similar events? **Your Village Council is the only local organization with the ability to represent the interests of ALL of our residents in discussions with Jefferson County and the State of Washington.**

PLVC supports many organizations that contribute to the quality of life here in our village. Do you appreciate hiking on our thirty-plus miles of trails? Do you enjoy perusing articles of interest in the latest issue of the *Voice*? Do the Holiday Lights brighten your dark evenings in December? Did you attend the recent Community Fair to explore the many organizations in which you might participate? **Your Village Council provides direct and indirect financial and organizational support to each of those community assets.**

For several years, your Village Council has experienced a declining number of volunteers willing to serve on the PLVC Board of Directors, significant declines in the number of voting members participating in our annual election of board members, and insufficient donations for PLVC to provide continued financial support for the many organizations that depend upon us.

There are approximately 1780 households within our village. Of those households, we received donations in our most recent fiscal year from only sixty-one households - 3.4% - for a total of \$3,650. While we are grateful for those who have donated, our annual budgetary support for organizations covered by the PLVC umbrella is over \$14,000. Our operating expenses for election-related expenses, website hosting and maintenance, email, etc. are minimal. The donations we received cover barely twenty percent of our combined expenses.

Some of us see the governance of our community as a three-legged stool: LMC for North Bay residents, SBCA for South Bay residents, and PLVC as the only organization with legal standing to represent all residents of the community. LMC and SBCA are supported financially by assessments that provide guaranteed income to support their activities. PLVC, incorporated as a 501c3 organization, relies exclusively on your tax-deductible donations; if we received support from the sixty-one donors who

contributed last year, we would need almost \$250 per donor to meet our current obligations. Doubling our donors to 115 - still less than 10% of our households- would require only \$125 annually to provide a firm financial base for PLVC to provide continued support for the organizations that depend upon us, as well as improving our ability to support our residents with an improved website and better communication tools.

Our timeline to determine the future of the Port Ludlow Village Council is short. We will host two Town Meetings in November, followed by our General Meeting and certification of board member election results on December 5th. We will evaluate the community response to the perceived value of the Port Ludlow Village Council by the end of December, and the board actions following those results will be taken at our monthly board meeting in January.

If you believe in the value of the Port Ludlow Village Council and are willing to provide financial support for its continuation, your tax-deductible donations may be made by mail to:

Port Ludlow Village Council
PO Box 65012
Port Ludlow, WA 98365

Or online at www.plvc.org

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the future of PLVC, please feel free to contact me directly, via email at john.goldwood@gmail.com or by phone at 253.651.0664. I am also available to provide a brief overview of PLVC to any of our interested Village HOAs or other groups that might desire an in-person presentation.

As noted above, we will also host two PLVC Town Meetings in November:

Monday November 11th, Beach Club, 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

Tuesday November 12th, Bay Club, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM.

We look forward to seeing you at our Town Hall meetings in November, and at our annual meeting at the Bay Club on December 5th.