



Interim Rate Ordinance Public Meeting – July 12, 2011 Public Comment Summary

On July 12, 2011, Mason County hosted a public meeting at the North Mason School District Headquarters to present a project update on the Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities Project, including introduction of an interim sewer rate ordinance. The meeting included a presentation from project representatives, followed by public comments. Speakers were asked to sign up to speak and were provided two minutes for verbal comments. The following is a summary of public comments heard. All materials presented at the meeting can be found by visiting: <http://www.masoncountywastewater.com/library.aspx>.

Please note: To the furthest extent possible, comments below are written verbatim. Comments were recorded by a community outreach representative from the third party consulting firm EnviroIssues, not a licensed court reporter. Notes italicized within brackets denote where words or phrases were indiscernible.

The following questions and comments were posed during the presentation. Names are not attributed as they were not provided.

- Who decided that Belfair would be an Urban Growth Area?
- What do you mean when you say everyone within 500 feet must connect?
- [My understanding is that] state law is 200 feet from the trunk line. I just want everyone to understand that. That's just another way they're trying to get more people on this since there's such a deficit.
- Why do the prices have to go up December 31, 2011?
- Are you saying that if a business uses more than the ERUs they purchase, you would charge them an additional hookup fee?
- Will you conversely reimburse us if we use fewer ERUs?
- So you'll charge us more but you won't pay us back?
- If you purchased two ERUs and then you expand your business, you would be charged more?
- Are we talking about charging additional connection fees or raising the monthly rates?
- Have the commissioners followed this project from day one and have they seen the massive overrun? Have the commissioners in fact approved the massive overrun and the policies?
- It's important for us to understand the rates for the future hookups before we sign off on this. There's too much controlling of the dialogue.
- This is our public process.
- There will be no growth if you charge \$14,500 per ERU.
- You said Phase 2 properties could pre-pay? How do we do that?

The following questions and comments were made during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Cindy Wiley (22554 Hwy 3, Belfair): My brothers and I are here representing my mother, Virginia Trammel, who lives in Belfair. We received notice that she lives 500 feet from the sewer line. She lives 752 feet back and she's required to hookup. She's low income, she has Alzheimer's, she's been in nursing care and we've exhausted her funds caring for her. What do

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we do? Emily has helped us try to find some kind of resource to help us pay for this. She qualifies for nothing because she's not living in the house. What do we do?

Ken Van Buskirk (Old Belfair Highway): I just have a couple of comments, first about the contaminated soil that was encountered. I'm concerned why CH2M Hill didn't identify that beforehand and what happens if more is encountered when the side connections are hooked up. So that's something to think about. My other comment is about the process, I was involved in the Sub Area Planning Group and I testified about the phasing of this project before both the Planning Advisory Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. Before the Planning Advisory Commission last fall, I asked that all the property owners in Phase 2 properties be notified so that they can plan what they can do and I don't know if that notification has happened. Right now the Board of County Commissioners is planning to have an Interim Ordinance Hearing next week, I think it's appropriate that all the people in the Urban Growth Area have the opportunity to comment on this Interim Ordinance, not just the people in Phase 1, because it affects everybody. I'd like to see those property owners in Phase 2 notified, some of them don't even know they're in Phase 2 or in the Urban Growth Area for that matter. Another thing I've also asked the Board of County Commissioners to consider is establishing an advisory group for our community; I think it's long past due.

Rob Drexler (231 Country Club Dr, Allyn, WA 98524): One quick question I didn't hear: how much is the total debt service? You gave us the yearly amount but you didn't give us the total. What's the total? How much do we owe past the grants? We now have a \$48 million system. How much do we owe? That's a question I'd like to have answered as far as that goes because I think it makes a tremendous difference, and in that case I think that should be divided among four areas and not just one area to cover that debt recovery. The other thing is as I sat here listening tonight, I had no idea I was going to say this, but you had me scared to death about this Interim Ordinance. Me as a "Joe taxpayer/voter," I am nervous about this Interim Ordinance and that whole concept. Do the ordinance, if you're going to do it, do the ordinance. And by the way is there a copy of the interim ordinance I could get a hold of before Tuesday's Commissioner's meeting? Is there something we can actually sit down and read? Thank you.

David Callan (390 E Orchard Beach Dr, Grapeview, WA 98546): My wife and I own Casper's Pizza and BBQ in Belfair. We've been operating since November 22 [2010] and the owner of the building defaulted on the loan and Kitsap Credit Union has the building now. So we came into this and took over a facility that's 18-20 years of age. The County made us upgrade everything. We put our life savings to bring this building up to code. We didn't have a landlord to look to; we had to carry a lot of stuff ourselves. The Credit Union was not going to help us and the landlord was defaulting on the loan. We got stuck with everything in between. Every penny I've saved all my life is in this business. We have had seven years of no income, five years of a startup business and two years I tried to find work. I'm 55 years of age. There's no chance in hell that I can get back in the IT market and I was very good. So here I am now, I put my whole life save savings, every penny we have, into this building – into Belfair. Everybody comes to our restaurant, they're all active community members, and they spend their money with us. We have hired dozens of people; we've employed people that spend their paychecks in Belfair.

This project will put us out of business. This project will take my house away from me. I have tried to do everything I can to get a job somewhere else, I have no alternatives. At 55 years of age, you're asking me to cough up \$20,000 or whatever it's going to be, what \$500 a month. Do you realize I'm looking at every single dime, every single day? I turn my ovens off when no one's here because I can't afford the gas. Utility companies ask for exorbitant down payments just to hook up. I've seen this kind of stuff before, when we're this late in the project, you guys

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could probably give a damn about what we have to say. There is a course, you're pursuing it. You know what? You're forcing me to oppose you every step of the way. If we have to organize and go after each Commissioner and take you on individually and get you out of office, we will do it.

Jean Robertson (421 NE SR 300, Belfair, WA 98528): On all this paperwork and everything, the Water District said that 135 gallons a day, we don't even use that in a month. So how do you adjust our bill to that? 135 times 30 equals over 4,000 gallons a month. We don't even use 300. [Please note: Belfair Water District bills are calculated in cubic feet, not gallons.]

Mike Shunk (10116 NE 85th St, Bellevue, WA): Good evening, I'm Mike Shunk with QFC Real Estate Department. I'm here speaking on behalf of our store in your community. We became aware several years ago of the sewer connection, but what we weren't aware of at that time, what we weren't aware of until recently, is what the cost is going to be for this store. This store needs to carry the burden of its cost. Going into the first of this year we thought the cost would be around \$100,000. Based upon this moving ERU factor, now we're looking at four times that number. The number is not only comprised of the connection fee, but it's also comprised of the cost to develop a pressurized system to tie into the line to the public right of way. I'd like to ask that the Commissioners consider several things: number one, for large users, there should be a graduated scale; actually there should be a cap on what that ERU can be. Also that the sewer usage fee is not equitable to other communities. If we were to apply the ERU assigned to our store, our monthly sewer bill would be double what we pay in Greater Puget Sound area locations. So I ask again, that consideration be giving to capping that number for graduated numbers. Furthermore, I don't know to what extent the County has subsidized this process, Emmett described \$200,000 per year for five years, I question if that should be even more and less of a burden be placed on the individual property owners. I appreciate your considerations and thoughts and I'm welcome to speak to anyone else on the subject.

Brian Peterson (Belfair, WA): I want to say first thanks to Dave. That was both moving and heartbreaking at the same time. But let me tell you, those aren't the only businesses that are going out. We've already heard from, you'll hear more about the laundromat closing down, we'll hear more about daycares shutting their doors, and Dr. LePere has already said they'll just tear down the low income housing he's got behind his offices because it's not worth it to him to hook up and he was planning on being here tonight but couldn't but that's the kind of devastating impact you're going to have if you implement these fees like this. Part of the problem starts with the ERU. We've discussed the ERU with the County for some time and they agreed a while back that it wasn't the right number. They said, you know, maybe 185 is the right number, would you agree on 185? And we were still pushing saying, you know what our calculations are showing it would be more fair at 200, 224, based on how we're looking at it. And now we come back with 135.

And I've got to tell you, this is the beginning of the end of Belfair. It's going to be on your backs if you adopt it this way. This is absolutely appalling. The future of Belfair won't go on with these kinds of fees, especially with multiples of \$15,000 hookups. So the other challenge is, and I was the chair of the Urban Growth Area Management Plan for some time for three and a half years of my life and kept it all since then, we always use the population calculations when we talked about these things. All the forecasts for sizing the UGA, all the forecasts for everything we calculate was 2.5 people per household. And now we're looking at ERUs and the Department of Ecology says that it's 2.5 people per household is what you should use. Not the average house that may have little Mrs. Smith living alone, and little Mr. Jackson living alone. It's 2.5 that, so an ERU should be, if someone's 80 gallons a day and they're living alone it should be 2.5 that to

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calculate into a fair ERU. But what this is happening is another focused attack on the business, saying you know what, the businesses can carry the burden. The residential units, the individual single family residences won't go up – it doesn't matter to them if it's 250 or 150 or 300 they will still only be charged 1 ERU. This affects the businesses and this is going to kill them.

Harlan Olson (91220 E Hwy 3): I speak for Belfair Community Baptist Church. We're a group that is dependent on what people give us. We service the community – we have boy scouts, and girl scouts, and Kiwanis, and quite a few other groups that come through there and use our facilities. And I attended a meeting here earlier, and they were talking like Brian said, the ERUs were going to be a lot higher, and it would give us a chance to not have to pay \$20,000 to hook up and \$400 a month. At those rates, I don't think our church can survive and I'm sure there are other churches that are going to be down the pipeline and are going to be in the same situation. I don't think you people listened at all to what was said down there at that meeting at the library. The only thing I hear is stuff where you come back and even lower the numbers that was given there. You've got to be realistic; the people of this community can't afford that and they're not going to afford it.

Bob Harris (140 NE Rainier Place N, Belfair, WA): I think the numbers speak for themselves. The whole plan is based on an estimated 5-6 percent growth over three years. I don't think that's going to happen. I think what we're going to see is a loss; too many businesses out there hanging by their thumbnails. If you add anything to their debt, anything more to their tenancy, just as Dave from Casper's said it, it's gone. I think it's also important to note that in 2009, we were hearing figures of 200-250 gallons a month per ERU, per day, 250 per day on their letterhead – on their letterhead. And then I went to last week's meeting and it had gone down to 150 gallons a day and then the meeting I attended today in Shelton, it had gone down to 135. They're lowering it for more ERUs and more cash flow. The growth isn't going to happen and we're going to lose businesses. It's important to note that Phase 2, which you're planning on, as far as I can tell, only has about 20 hookups. I don't think there's going to be much revenue there. I agree with Ken Van Buskirk on two things: setting up an advisory committee, and trying to involve the community in this. I think it's really important. And I'd also like to see some of this ran in front of the Planning Advisory Committee to involve them in it. My biggest question, the figures I've got show an original cost of \$25 million, something like that, to do this system. Now we're looking at \$50 million. I just want to know how we got there, how did we lose control of this thing? Because it is out of control, and whether you live in the UGA or you shop in the UGA you're going to be directly affected.

Jack Johnson (PO Box 1119, Belfair, WA 98528): I'd like to echo Bob and Ken Van Buskirk ideas of the advisory committee. I believe there are a lot of issues that we need to be represented with. But the only reason I think we should create a committee is if you'll listen to it. I really encourage all three Commissioners today to launch a committee and to listen to it. I believe we're not represented in this, the way we have been represented. I believe the committee could go over very important issues like concepts of what should be going into Phase 2 – what type of design would occur there; rates and financing. I added up all of the properties in desperation in Phase 1, parcel numbers, there's a lot of them. There's about \$110 million of assessed value in Phase 1, and I know there would be a lot of people against this, but I didn't know if a special assessment tax would be a benefit to try to keep the sewer rates down and keep the hookup fees down where we can have future development at 5 percent. There are a lot of issues still, the ERUs, this is hot off the press, this is 24 hours old. The spreadsheet from the Belfair Water District, and like we discussed earlier it went from 250 in published information from your company to 166, where I thought that was low, and then it went to 150 and now we're

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at 135. I think we gained some on the 1/10th of an ERU. I hope you round to 1/10th. I think there's a lot of sales tax revenue that's coming out of the Belfair UGA.

Herb Gerhardt (90 NE Rainbow Pl N, Belfair, WA 98528): I'm Herb Gerhardt, I'm lucky that I don't live in the UGA, but one thing, Jack just touched on it now, that I haven't been hearing is the debt service. You owe X millions of dollars. You've got number 1, number 2, number 3, number 4, I think there's four units for the sewer service to come in the future, the phases. I think you need to spread out the debt service to all four right now. You can't charge the first phase the entire debt service. You charge all four, and you have to do that by an assessment to the properties, do it for the square foot or whatever. So that it's equal across the board because they're all gaining for future development. That you're counting on there's going to be lots of development, and they're going to get sort of a free ride. And the people up front are the ones who didn't take the shorts right now. Something for the commissioners to consider.

Randy Neatherlin (Belfair, WA): First of all, Commissioners, we do understand we need to strengthen our argument and not just our voices because we need your vote. We need you to help us with this, because this is definitely out of control. One of the most important things that we need to have though is factual information that comes from your employees to you and things that are very clear. I want to give you something here. At the last Commissioners meeting we had up here, there was a discussion about that ULID, and at that time, Emmett questioned everything I had said. You guys went back and found that some of it was true because you did some votes to change it. I'm bringing you the minutes of the meeting that say everything I say are accurate in there so that you will know the next time this comes that you can't challenge my integrity when it comes to my words, they're right there in the minutes. We have a situation where we have all this debt and all this weight being put on this community – there's only 250 plus people who are going to be putting this on in the beginning here. One thing you need to know, they say that there's a little cloud when it comes to the other 40 out of that 250 – the 40 that are in the manufactured homes. As you see here, there's no cloud. The law tells it – unless their septic fails, it cannot be forced to replace it. Unless we decide to do it. So that means there's even less people that are going to be on this. Some of these numbers that we're getting into with the ERU; you can pick whatever you want. You can say that we'll go with however many M&Ms are in a jar in this person's house for an ERU, that doesn't matter. Water that goes into the house doesn't matter. You what, through the County you have different ERUs, for everything we have out here, it's not based on the water usage, it's going out for the other sewer systems. That's a number that they've decided to pick but that has influence on us except for to create more money out of our pockets here. This is not just the Belfair situation, as a matter of fact, Belfair doesn't really exist. This is a Mason County problem. None of the money here goes to us. We have no pockets here. Every tax increase, everything that comes from having business here or losing business does not stay here. It all goes to the County. This is a problem that was created at the County where it went out of control – \$25 million to where we're at now. Each one of those 250 people, the cost is \$200,000 per customer to create where we're at now if you go close to \$50 million. That's excessive.

Pam Merrill (NE Alder Creek Lane): Thank you. I just want to say too, that from the very beginning I've been trying to do the right thing. I have a really unusual situation. I'm on Alder Creek Lane. I'm right at the south end of the UGA. I have a business, I'm a sole proprietor, and I have no employees. I'm in an old house, that house has another business, which is also a sole proprietor in the garage there. That's two people, part time work. Upstairs we have a person living in less than 500 square feet of space, as a permanent resident. So this is one house. We also have a small cabin on the same piece of property – less than 500 square feet, one person. So we have four people, two people part-time, not living there and we have 5 ERUs. I don't

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even see the logic for that. I'm really trying hard to understand how you can justify that. Secondly, we were told that our side sewer stub was over by J.R.'s. When there's one right in Alder Creek Lane for the Eagles club. So it's much closer for me to build my side sewer from my home/business to that side sewer stub as opposed to way over there crossing two other properties to get to J.R.'s sewer stub. Is there a process for challenging the number of ERUs? I've asked for a visit a number of times, by somebody, a County representative, or some decision making person to come out and actually visit my property so that I can show them in person what I'm talking about, without any response. I'd love to show you around. My question about challenging ERUs, is that something that you're going to answer?

Lynn Constantineau (Belfair, WA): I give my time to Jack Johnson to finish talking about his issues.

Jack Johnson (PO Box 1119, Belfair, WA 98528): I don't work for CH2M Hill, and Gordon, I was at the 3 p.m. meeting today and in that meeting you said the project costs were \$47.9 million, and with \$34-35 million in grants and forgivable principle, so I'm calculating about \$14 million in debt. That was what was said today. I'd also like to talk about business in Belfair. I own Belfair you-pay laundry that does about a total of \$10,000 a month in business, I don't normally tell people that, but there's a very important issue here. The connection fee of that 150 gallons per ERU is \$66,000 and a monthly rate \$2,000 and I can guarantee you that it's not going to pay \$66,000 to connect and then when another laundry comes to entertain itself in Belfair, \$15,000 connection fees you're talking about \$350,000 connection fees. I'd like to share that story with you. I also know there are a lot of issues that need to be worked out all the way to who's supplying the E1 pumps, and I understand that they're is supplying E1 pumps to the residential but not to the commercial. That doesn't seem fair to me that the residential should get free E1 pumps on the low pressure and the commercial doesn't get free E1 pumps. And there's another lopsided where you're putting more burden on the businesses. And also in the low pressure areas, the low pressure was put into the cost of construction and so if it was gravity in those areas, not only wouldn't have to buy an E1 pump, we would be able to gravity right into the main, so anyone that's in that low pressure area is pressurized is somewhat penalized because of what happened at that pump.

Don LePere (PO Box 40, Belfair, WA 98528): I stayed out here so I'd keep my mouth shut. I have a tendency to pop off and those of you who know me from Kiwanis know why. Use your water bills to figure your water bills like we did. About a month and a half ago, the dental office according to their numbers was 26.5 ERUs. When we used our water bill, we have five buildings on the property, we got 4 ERUs, and one of them is vacant. So use your water bills if you're not sure about the ERUs. Brian already mentioned at \$3,000 to hook up and \$95 a month, two of those buildings on my property are done. They're low income housing, they're WWII Navy housing units that were cut in half and barged out here sometime in the '50s. They're not going to be there. And just a comment for Commissioners, once a week for the last three weeks, we've had people in front of the office patching the pipes that don't have any sewage in them yet. Down in the manhole patching the pipes. What's going to happen when you run some crap through there, figuratively and literally? If they're not working now with nothing in them, we've got a major problem down the road and the cost overruns are just beginning. You haven't put a test run on those at all, there's been no fluid run through those things and they've been out there because my assistant went out and asked them what they're doing. They're patching the pipes at that manhole right in front of my office. On top of that, while they're doing that there goes my parking for all my patients, which is kind of a moot point because when the third lane goes in, there goes my parking anyway, it doesn't really matter. But right now patients are trying

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to get into the office and we've got *[indiscernible]* out their patching their pipes that haven't even been charged yet.

Patti Kleist (Allyn): I have a couple questions, it breaks my heart to hear Don say that because I run Faith in Action, and part of what we do is help out low income people. About 60 percent of what we spend is utility bills as it is, and our area has very little low income house as it stands. We have a lot of people living with no utilities out in the woods in fifth wheels because they've got no other choice. If we start losing the little bit of low income housing we have, it's horrible what's going to happen to businesses, but what's going to happen to people who don't have very much money in this town is sinful. It's horrible, because it's going to trickle down to them. If the business has to charge more to be able to pay for the sewer, you know if QFC has to raise its prices to stay here, or if QFC goes away, how are these people going to get into Port Orchard to shop? I mean it's just horrendous, the effects that are going to happen. Why can't we do what you were saying maybe Allyn is doing? I don't know. Charge a base thing then do a water in/water out thing. This ERU thing that you're talking everything from 135 to 250, obviously this isn't firm science. So do it based on what people are actually using, not based on some kind of weird formula. The other question I have is we're currently raising funds to build a senior citizen center for North Mason to benefit everybody both is jobs and able to track businesses because we have facilities for people to live here. How far along do I have to be in building process before December 31st to have to not pay \$15,000 per ERU? I'd like it if someone could answer that question or contact me. Because I could maybe get something on there, if I could get a minimum on there to get it at \$3,000 instead of \$15,000. And this is a project that will benefit the whole community so you know, anyhow that's my comment.

Lance Wiley (391 NE Gladwin Rd, Belfair, WA 98528): I represent the Lynch Cove community, and we were told that Phase 2 was going to come out to Lynch Cove and I was wondering if you could answer that for Beard's Cove and Lynch Cove.

Mouman Chu (PO Box 1610, Belfair, WA 98528): I'm from the China Capital Restaurant in Belfair here. I'm just trying to find out what is my ERU. And also what are the costs of the hookup program. So we wait for the hookup program to play out, before we hire private people. How soon do you think the hookup program will notify everyone? But the thing is you say by the end of this year everyone has to be hooked up and now it's almost going to August and we still have nothing about that. The time's pretty much washed. Then *[indiscernible]* if you have a lot a debt, just any other business you are out of business, you should not penalize every citizen here to raise the price here and raise the price here. Every time it seems to be more and more every day, you know. It just seems to be very unfair, you know.

Alisha Harrison (PO Box 3240, Belfair, WA 98528): I just wanted to take a few minutes to talk to the Commission a little anecdotally. I luckily don't live in the Belfair UGA, I am however, a real estate agent and my office is in Belfair UGA. I won't be affected directly but you can bet everyone will be affected indirectly and that's to what I'm speaking. My daughter is three years old and attends Kid's Cottage on Highway 3 in Belfair. And I spoke at great length with her, with the gal who owns that property, today, she owns the building and the business, and I can echo what a few people here have said. She will go out of business if these rates are adopted, which will put me out of business most likely. I have to have affordable childcare for my kid in order to be able to continue to work in this community, in order to be able to be part of this community. I just moved into this community, in Allyn, in March. Kind of wondering where my head was. Anyways, I really urge the Commission to, I echo what Jack said and a few others, we need a citizen's advisory group. We need there to be open dialogue between the Commission and the citizens. That hasn't happened too much, I'd like to see it start happening a little bit better. I eat

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at Caspar's at least once a week, I'm done if they're out. I'm going to starve. Anyways, I appreciate your time to listen, there's going to be more affecting with these numbers than I think you're giving it credit. I think we're going to really suffer in this town. Thank you.

John Phillips (Belfair Water District): John Phillips, Belfair Water District. When the sewer first started, they hired the engineering firm of CH2M Hill. They are headquartered in Denver, and they hired the local office here in Bellevue. If you take the money CH2M Hill received and divide it by the number of hours they worked, they're making \$500-700 an hour. Is there anyone here in Belfair that makes \$500-700 an hour? You could have hired local engineers a lot cheaper. Belfair Water District, we talked to the Commissioners and we said, "Look, we'd like to co-manage the building of the sewer with CH2M. We would offer \$50/month water bills." They wouldn't even talk to us. They wouldn't investigate it, they wouldn't look into it, they just rejected it. So instead of \$50 a month water bills that we offered, now what are we going to get from Mr. Dobeey? Two and three times that much a month. I think you were negligent in not taking us up on our offer.

Mary Jo Cady (Commercial in Belfair, live in Shelton): I have some questions but I would rather hear what Randy has to say, so I give my time to Randy Neatherlin.

Randy Neatherlin (Belfair, WA): You know, I know these Commissioners, and I know if we give you some solutions, I'm hoping you'll hear us and you'll listen to us and I know you're good people. I know you don't want to hurt any of us, but these numbers that we keep talking about are more than numbers, these are people and they're real people. Some of the numbers you're hearing for comparisons, competition as you know is everything, Puyallup, I just sold a home out there, they're paying \$31 for theirs. Olympia, you guys just got a thing on that for \$50.04 a month in Olympia. Out here in Port Orchard, two months for \$98. This is our competition and it affects us here. Some of the solutions that we can actually do that might actually have an effect and help save us right here might be a few things like first creating a realistic ERU amount between 200-260 is the actual stuff that you're finding out that when you make your phone calls. If we were at 225, that changes everything for our businesses. In order to do that and to pull that off, of course the County is going to have to assume some of this debt.

But another problem we have is as we're looking at Phase 2, that's going to assume more debt. You're going to have 130 people and put on another \$5-7 million in debt. We've got to be careful of that. We need to switch our phases to go to Phase 3, where we actually might have customers that can help pay for this system as it gets built up on the hill, commercial customers who keep the rates low enough. If we enter into public/private partnerships with even the Port or whatever to help bond these things up there so we can work with those property owners to get it done and us do it instead of the County if it keeps getting this far out of hand because you can imagine what that next phase is going to cost as it goes. Please remember the people on this as I know you guys, I've known you guys for years, I know how you actually do care. This is real. These people are going to close their doors. Some of these people are trying to take care of their husbands who were in a home basically, they have to cover. There is nothing else. You have to take part of the responsibility. We didn't ask for this – this was put on us. We're not going to benefit as much from it. The County is the only one who's going to get money either way. Taxes, growth, or even what if it goes down. Please, help us.

Brenda Ryan (280 Roy Boad Rd, Belfair): I grew up in Belfair, my mom has lived here for 40 years. She's right behind Safeway, right in the heart of the mess. I live in Port Orchard, I have a family of five – I have five adults who live in my home. I have a sewer bill of \$42 a month. Why is a single woman, not 80 years old, going to have to pay \$98 a month when I pay \$42?

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Where's the fairness? I feel for every one of these businesses, QFC, obviously he's done his research. I shop at QFC in Port Orchard. It would be a shame if they went out here in Belfair. They have been here forever. You made us take the Pledge of Allegiance, for liberty and justice for all. Where is the liberty and justice for all? Thank you.

Earl Lincoln (PO Box 368, Belfair, WA 98528): I'm not very good at this. I wanted to say thank you for the Commissioners, we've worked in Belfair to get a sewer system for years and I've supported every effort we've made over the last 50 years or so to get sewer systems. I've really gotten disappointed in this building system. I can't imagine people implementing system costs that are going to bankrupt us people in businesses. And this'll kill the growth in Belfair. It seems to me it's so simple, if you would set up as a tax like Herb said, a couple of people have said, that has the base and the cost have to be spread over everybody, not just 200 people in Belfair and there's no reason this is a mandated nonsensical law from the State. The State mandates things that we have to do, then we break people up in business. It's just so simple, it would cost over the whole area and not just 200 people. I just can't believe that we, especially Tim Sheldon, working with the State and this stuff has to understand that we cannot absorb these tremendous costs in our little businesses in a growth area like this. So anyway, there has to be a better way to do it. Thank you.

Julie (Lynch Cove, WA): My name's Julie and I just have lots in Lynch Cove and Beards Cove, and I don't want to have to hook up if I got four lots and then spend all that money to hookup because I didn't consider that in my original costs of purchasing the property. But at the same time, if the city, if Belfair was able to incorporate, and I know something about a UGA, you can only have so many but there's the ability to get a variance and expand the area of population, so the money would stay in Belfair and the velocity of the money would keep being in Belfair. That would help everybody in Belfair. So if they were able to expand it to further out where more money would be here and more money would stay in Belfair, and then everybody would have a lower cost. That would help everybody instead of all the money going to Shelton, because they're losing track of money by having to go to Shelton and if it does, Belfair will die, and if Belfair will die that will affectively hurt Shelton too because it will hurt Allyn. And it will in the long run hurt everybody. So if they have it where we were to incorporate and get a variance, and share this with everybody, but then at the same time it has to be capped and just like the 529 we should be able to buy [*indiscernible*] so it's not, so the costs, if they're out of control and the people who that are running the costs up get punished, not us. We have a limited cost, we're supposed, you know what I'm saying? We got to put a ceiling on the costs right away or people aren't going to want to do it. And if the businesses die, the town will die. If the homeowners move the businesses will move, so both have to help but not get hurt. That's it.

Valerie McLeod (Belfair, W): I'm Valerie McLeod and I was on the Sewer Advisory Committee for three years. A couple of people here have asked, Ken was one of them, if we could have an advisory committee and someone said off the wall, "But they have to be listened to." I don't think the Sewer Advisory Committee, that I worked for hours and hours for three years was listened to. I do think there should be an Advisory Committee but they've got to have something, they have to have some value, they have to respected and listened to and something done about what they advise.

Cassandra Hoffman (Belfair, WA): Hi, I'm Cassandra Hoffman. I just want to make it really clear tonight; I am president of North Mason Chamber, but I'm not speaking on behalf of the Chamber this evening. I am speaking on behalf of myself and my own business here in Belfair. I own a Farmers' Insurance office. We are regulated by the State and by Insurance Commissioners, so unlike restaurants and other businesses in town, we do not have the

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opportunity to raise our prices in the case that we have more expenses. So in essence, what that means is I would have to lay off employees or I would simply move out of town. It would be much easier for me just to move out of Belfair because I'm not mandated, I don't have to stay here. The only reason I stay here is because of the people and every person in this room is very compassionate about what's going on tonight. I also want to bring up the fact that the property owners were very well informed in some cases, however, the businesses that occupy those properties which will be also taking on those burdens through *[indiscernible]* because the property owners cannot suffer this all by themselves. We have not been communicated with. We have not been sent letters. We have not been invited to public forums. I subsequently was invited because of my involvement through the Chamber. We will die and on the top of it, if we don't die we'll just simply move out. So I can just simply move right outside the UGA line, open up an office and now I won't have to worry about all these hookup fees. Now for my landlord, Brian Peterson, that would be horrible for him and every other landlord in this building, it would be horrible for them as well. So we have to keep in mind that communication is very, very difficult and Emmett expressed to me that communication to the property has been done and I understand that, however, it's not just the property owners that this is affecting.

It's the businesses within those properties, it's every single person that walks into QFC and Safeway and every other business. I also want to caution that I think at times as human beings we think about small businesses dying and we're really worried about that, but I'm just as concerned about the big business moving out of town and I think some of us say, "Well, they're big so they can handle it." They can't. They'll pass it along or they'll move out just as simple as I would move outside of Belfair.