

**City of Bainbridge Island
Utility Advisory Committee**

November 13, 2014 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

UAC members present: Andy Maron (Chair), Steve Johnson, Jeff Kanter, Nancy Transue

UAC member absent: Emily Sato

Also present: Public Works Director Barry Loveless, and Robert Dashiell (citizen)

1. Regular Business. Committee had not reviewed the October 13 and 30 notes prior to the meeting. They will be added to the November 24 agenda.
2. Public Comment. Robert Dashiell commented on the General Fund.
3. Utility Tax Issues and Fire Hydrant. The following language contained in their November 13, 2014 draft recommendations on City Excise Tax on Utilities and Fire Hydrant Costs was replaced as follows: paragraph one, second to the last sentence :*The UAC could see no particular benefit or consideration to City utility ratepayers for the tax being paid by the utilities*; paragraph three first sentence: *If the City implemented the above two recommendations at the same time, the impact to the General Fund be an approximate net loss of revenue of \$158,000*; third paragraph, second sub-bullet: *applying an excise tax to all water utilities. While this would required some additional investigation, UAC believes a 3% rate on all water utilities may be revenue neutral with respect to utility tax paid by the City's water systems and/or...* third paragraph, second bullet: *If the City is concerned about the loss of revenue the City could consider among other alternatives applying*; paragraph three last bullet: *increasing the excise tax on the stormwater utility, which is an all-island utility [though the UAC is concerned about an increased tax on the SSWM utility as it does not have sufficient revenue to cover projected expenses]*.

Committee member Transue moved to adopt the changes which was seconded by Committee member Johnson and approved 4-0.

Robert Dashiell questioned whether there should be both a utility tax and a cost allocation system.

4. Expanding the UAC's Role Regarding Other Utilities. Committee discussed the idea of expanding their role to include other essential vital City utilities such as electricity and telecommunications.
5. Storm and Surface Water Management Education. Public Works Director Loveless introduced the item.

Robert Dashiell commented on how the SSWM utility currently functions.

Public Works Director Loveless provided background on the utility and answered questions.

6. Comments for the Good of the Order. Committee to review Chapters IV and V before the next meeting which is scheduled for November 24. The agenda's sole topic will be SSWM Education.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

 3/11/15