

STAFFORD HAMLET
COMMUNITY MEETING

Minutes

October 11, 2022

Chair Bill Markt called the October 11th Community meeting of the Stafford Hamlet to order at approximately 7:02 pm on Zoom.

Attendance:

- ❖ Board Members Present: Richard Fiala, Katy Krider, Patty Mamula, Bill Markt, Cathy Meyers, Tate Morgan, Andy Munson, Len Schaber,
- ❖ Excused: Bill Long, Kelsey Vu
- ❖ Absent:
- ❖ Staff Present:

Chair Bill Markt welcomed attendees and introduced the candidates. Libra Forde was unable to attend due to a health issue. Bill Markt said that the unloading of pumpkins at Fiala Farms is going well. Bill said that Hamlet Board elections are coming up in December. The November Community meeting will have an update on the Stafford/Childs Roads projects.

Candidate Forum - Clackamas County Commission Position 2 & State House District 37 Representative:

The Stafford Hamlet hosted a candidates forum featuring County Commission Position 2 candidates Paul Savas and Libra Forde (who was unable to attend), as well as House District 37 candidates Jules Walters and Aeris Estep. Candidates were given 3 minutes for an introduction and had one minute to answer questions.

Paul Savas provided an overview of his history and background. He explained he is working on solving complex problems, and is leading with integrity. Commissioner Savas said he is anti-tolling. He would like to continue working on building affordable housing. He is also working on homelessness, inflation, increasing access to treatment, and expanding broadband. He is supportive of law enforcement. He added that he is running for reelection.

Jules Walters thanked the Hamlet for the invitation, and she provided an overview of her background. She would like to work on supporting families, and she is running to replace Representative Prusak.

Aeris Estep provided an overview of his history and background. He would like to improve Oregon. He has experience on Boards and Commissions. He is concerned about government mismanagement and a lack of care. He would like to work on the issues of homelessness, drugs, and crime. He is also concerned about inflation and gas prices.

House District 37 Question 1: Would you be willing to wait on the expansion of I-205 until another funding source, that is not tolling, can be created? What might some of those funding options be?

- Aeric Estep said yes, he would be willing to wait. He thought that I-205 could be funded alternately. He said that budgets show priorities. He would pause the I-205 work over budget concerns. He said that one option could be to change the gas tax so that there is a mandatory per mile charge for electric vehicles.
- Jules Walters said yes, she would be willing to wait. She said that tolling is deeply flawed. She said that diversion is and will be a massive problem. She said she has seen in other states that tolling can be done right, but this is not tolling done right. She would also like to audit the Oregon Department of Transportation and examine the Oregon Transportation Commission. She said that infrastructure repair and fixing local roads are also needed.

House District 37 Question 2: How willing are you to support a measure that supports limiting development into currently active agriculture land?

- Jules Walters said that we should use land already in the Urban Growth Boundary. She does not support expanding into agricultural lands. She said we should expand where areas are walkable. She is also supportive of locally sourcing food.
- Aeric Estep said that farmland is a gem. He said the current land use paradigm is broken. He said there should be local say on land use.

House District 37 Question 3: What are the two most pressing issues facing House District 37 and how would you resolve them?

- Aeric Estep said tolling, and police funding and homelessness, along with drug and mental health issues. He would also work with legislators to remove the language that authorizes tolling.
- Jules Walters said tolling (and diversion and traffic) and reproductive rights, and public safety. She added West Linn and Lake Oswego have jointly hired a behavioral health police officer, and that the new person has been very successful.

House District 37 Question 4: What can you do, if elected, to facilitate community involvement in area decisions that are driven by the state? I-205 tolling as an example.

- Jules Walters said she would continue community involvement, and she cited regional phone calls as a way to engage people and hear problems.
- Aeric Estep said he would have an open ear to the community and would work with everyone.

Commission Question 1: What can be done to encourage more rural citizen involvement in CPOs, Hamlets, and volunteers Boards or committees?

- Paul Savas said that meeting signs, flyers, and inviting the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) or guest speakers can all help.

Commission Question 2: Would you be willing to wait on the expansion of I-205 until another funding source, that is not tolling, can be created? What might those funding options include?

Paul Savas said he is open to new ideas and workarounds. He said it could be funded via Rose Quarter money that is not yet used. He said there could be express lanes or changes to the gas tax. He suggested auditing ODOT.

Commission Question 3: Regarding pending budget cuts to fund a new courthouse: what are your choices for cuts and for how long would those cuts be in place?

Paul Savas said that in May of 2021 the BCC should have done the budget cuts before approving the courthouse. He said that the cuts are unknown and that the staff report is yet to be sent to the Commission.

Commission Question 4: Questions related to the Climate Action Plan: 1) When do you see the climate action plan being finalized, 2) What are the biggest stumbling blocks to its implementation, and 3) If elected how will you facilitate the implementation of the County's climate action plan with our neighboring cities?

Paul Savas said the plan will be finalized in 2023, the funding will likely be a stumbling block, but grants could help with it, and he would partner with the cities to coordinate on plans.

Commission Question 5: As there's more and more density throughout the County, how can you protect County gun owners' rights while working to ensure the safety of neighbors? Does the County inspect residents' individual shooting areas to ensure the bullets are not traveling in an unsafe direction? If not, why not? Follow-up: Because of the County's inaction, isn't it liable for injury or death from stray bullets traveling to nearby neighbors?

Paul Savas said he has some of the answers. In the rural areas there are less limits on guns, and in urban areas there are some limits. He said that inspections of ranges can be an issue. He said that gun owners are liable not property owners.

Commission Question 6: Churches buy large tracts of land just outside the UGB in Clackamas County. There are six churches with large tracts of land in the Wankers Corner area. This location is desirable investment area for future land development. Churches do not pay property tax. They do not pay back deferred property taxes if their land is sold to a developer. There isn't holding costs compared to a large tract owned by a homeowner or business who is required to pay property taxes. Do churches disclose all sources of income and pay capital gains if their land is sold to a developer?

Paul Savas said that he would need to get more information, but that disclosure is not required. He said he would need to get more details and talk to someone who knows more, but that they probably do not pay capital gains.

Audience Question - Len Schaber asked how would you support local farms in the event of a disaster. He would like to see encouragement of farming vegetables and consumables.

- Paul Savas said there would likely be a lack of production and that you cannot make people grow consumables.
- Jules Walters said that with supply chain issues people can preserves or can fruits and vegetables. She said that she would encourage disaster preparedness and resiliency. She said that in the aftermath of the ice storms she has been pushing for more disaster preparedness.
- Aeric Estep that that he would like to see more standardization of regulation and certification for vegetables and crops.

Audience Question - Randy Yamada asked about tolling and some of Governor Tom McCall's framework on development.

- Paul Savas said he would like to see development occur in the Sunrise corridor near 127th and Happy Valley.
- Jules Walters said that preservation is important to her and that she supports the Hamlet.

Audience Question - Rick Cook said that there are many discussions about greenhouse gasses, and how to reduce emissions, but he would like to see a regional climate plan and asked what the candidates thought?

- Aeric Estep said that air quality is an important issue, and he thought a regional plan could be great.
- Jules Walters said that climate change is an existential threat. She said that sequestration and a carbon sink in areas like Stafford is good. She said she would like to work on climate plans.
- Paul Savas said that a regional plan would be great. He said unification and coordination would be good. He said that technology and engineers will help solve some of the problems. He said that electrification would be a part of any solution.

Each candidate was given three minutes for closing statements.

Bill Markt thanked the candidates for participating.

Update on Trees:

Bill Markt reported that Andy Munson is still selling trees. He said the website will keep people posted. He added that fall is a good time to plant. Andy Munson said that fifty five or so of the trees are still alive. He will prepare them after the rains start. The price is to be determined. He said he talked to the forester about getting more trees, but the forester said the big buyers purchase in Spring so there may not be many out there. He will put links on the website of places to buy trees.

Adjournment: Chair Bill Markt adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.