**LWVSJ Observer Corps\*: County Council October 18, 2022**

There was a public hearing on **Public Facilities Financial Assistance Grants**. The Application Review Committee had recommended approval **of three grants to the EDC** totaling **$164K** for training and business support programs; to **Parks and Fairgrounds** for **$80k** to **upgrade a building for year-round** use; to the **Orcas Center $53k** for a **generator.** They recommended against funding from the Town of Friday Harbor to pave a parking lot on land the city did not own or hold a long-term lease; and against **McKay Harbor Water District** for sewer expansion, as they believed it was a private vs. public entity. A final decision was not made as it was clarified that McKay Harbor was a public entity and that the Prosecuting Attorneys office wanted unspecified caveats included in some grants. The discussion/decision were continued for the November 8 Council Meeting.

The County Extension Director outlined a request for an **increased assessment** for **Noxious Weed Control.** Sharply increased demand from both private property holders and public entities for noxious weed assistance and managing new programs like free disposal of noxious weeds, means the program needs increased staff to meet the demand and a salary increase to retain and recruit staff. A **public hearing** on the issue was scheduled for **November 8 at 9:15.**

 Auditor Milene Henley presented **a first draft of comprehensive written financial policies**. Up until now some policies are in writing (debt, investment) while others are not (budget). Remedying this will improve Access, Transparency, authority, clarity, and compliance needed to for financial controls. Discussion of the draft will be continued on November 8.

Brandon Cadwell presented **a revised Fee Schedule for parks and fairground facilities** that streamlines and simplifies. the fee structure across all facilities.

Discussion of the draft **Comprehensive Plan update** continued covering the **Economic Development** section.

\*The **League of Women Voters,** a nonpartisan organization encourages informed participation in government. The Observer Corps attends and takes notes at government meetings to expand public understanding of public policy and decisions. The notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the League or its members.