**LWVSJ Observer Corps\*: Friday Harbor Town Council, April 20, 2023**

A citizen resident on Nash Street read a letter making a case for the town place a single additional streetlight on Nash instead of the three called for by town engineering standards. With the existing streetlights on adjoining streets and the parking lot lights at Marketplace and the Mullis Center the area has abundant light and more could affect the frog population.

The Town Council authorized a licensing agreement to purchase and **install new cloud-based financial software** that will integrate electronic payments into accounts. The software costs $15k per year, but will save expenses of maintaining and replacing the current server, staff time, and fees for cloud storage.

Council discussed town standards for streetlights and light poles. They agreed that for Nash Street they would use **warmer 3000 vs. bluer 4000 heat lights and the pole style now on Blair.** They also chose to get colored concrete rather than yellow plastic ramps for the ADA pavers.

The Council approved a planning department practice for multi-family density zoning **to round up for all plot sizes** rather than down from 0.5 and up from 0.51.

The Planning Department director went over a list of **possible incentives** the town could grant to **encourage development of affordable housing** to get Council input on those they wished to explore. Possible incentives include transferable density credits, increased height, adjusting square footage ratios of ancillary housing, adopting pre-approved designs/design standards, creating a new high-density zone, fee waivers, and reduced parking requirements. The Council will explore several of these further including design standards, high-density zones, and fee waivers. Some **incentive**s **are already available** to developers **meeting historic preservation standards** and the Council wants to revisit what is required to get those incentives.

The Council agreed to the planning director’s suggestion that the **project approval process be re-evaluated** and possibly changed to get earlier Council input.

A council member noted that the county is expanding **water use at the Fairgrounds** and will put the issue on a future agenda. The Council is seeking to strengthen **regular communication with County Council** on issues affecting town and county.

\*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.