



# PORT TOWNSEND & JEFFERSON COUNTY LEADER

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## **Hadlock sewer costs overblown, commissioner says**

*By Kasia Pierzga, Leader Staff Writer*

A public meeting focused on the proposed sewer system for Port Hadlock and Irondale drew about 40 local residents last week, many of whom support the project.

But when an engineer from the Seattle-based firm under contract to design the system pegged the construction cost at as much as \$90,000 per household, many in the audience were shocked.

The engineer's presentation of the estimated cost angered members of the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, who said the engineer overstated the likely cost to individual property owners.

Commissioner Pat Rodgers (R-Brinnon) said the figure is misleading, not only because it doesn't account for grant money the county hopes to receive to help pay for construction, but also because it assumed only 300 households would hook up to the system.

"The assumptions [the engineer] made are never going to happen," Rodgers said. "What he said just incited people. I just wish he wouldn't have done that."

At present, county officials are collecting information and identifying the various options for developing a sewer system.

The sewer study will enable county staff to identify what kind of system should be installed, the boundaries of the service area and the schedule for installation, and how to pay for it.

Getting the sewer system in the ground is expected to cost about \$30 million, but the final cost of extending the system throughout the Hadlock urban growth area would be about \$85 million.

Rodgers and the other two county commissioners discussed steps that county officials could take to present information about the sewer and build public support for the project.

At their regular meeting on Monday, Aug. 8, the commissioners will review the consultant's recommendations and are expected to choose which option to pursue. The consultant will then develop a preliminary engineering design, detailed cost estimates and recommendations on how to pay for the project. A stakeholder workshop is planned for September, followed by a public open house in October.

A draft sewer facility plan is expected to be ready in November. The final sewer facility plan should be ready in March 2007, with construction of the first phase completed by 2010.

A gravity system is the recommended option, rather than a system that uses a pumping station.

Kevin Dour of engineering services firm Tetra Tech/KCM, said a gravity system is more expensive to install but is more reliable and costs less to maintain over time.

The system's treatment plant would likely be built on county-owned land near the sheriff's office in Port

Hadlock.

Development of a sewer system plan is a requirement for creating an urban growth area under state growth-management rules.

Details about the project are available in a notebook at the Jefferson County Library and online at [www.porthadlocksewer.org](http://www.porthadlocksewer.org).

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