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## Keep Weatherwax, sell the golf course

Tuesday, October 7, 2008 10:39 AM PDT

This letter is in response to Sara Upton's recommendation to sell the Weatherwax.

I think she makes some really good points. The only place where I disagree is what property we should be selling. Anyone, who is involved and telling the truth knows that we are not going to get \$10 million for any part of the Weatherwax. That is just "pie in the sky" propaganda by people who want to have the Weatherwax developed.

What we should be looking at is selling the Golf Course to a destination type resort such as Salishan. I've been told the assessed value of the golf course is between \$18 million and \$20 million for the course on its present footprint. That does not count the fees the city would collect for building permits associated with a new hotel or the yearly property tax on a golf course and hotel.

A destination type hotel would do its own marketing, bringing in its own group of tourists, adding to what the city and others are doing now. If the course needs upgrading it would be their responsibility and not fall on the taxpayers of Ocean Shores.

Remember, at present the city receives almost no income from the golf course. The figure I was given was well under \$2,000 a year, plus a small portion of the sales tax.

Here is one idea of what we could do with that money. I would suggest giving \$1 million to the Friends of the Library for a building fund. The permit center could be fixed up. Some money could be used for a medical clinic. And the money left would make a sizable dent in the city's debt.

Golfers would still have a golf course to play, perhaps even a better course. And what better time to market the golf course than right after it's been named one of the top 100 courses in the United States by Golfers Digest?

I will vote to retain the Weatherwax because of its ability to draw a new breed of tourist. If you agree about the golf course, e-mail the mayor (dmbunkers@gmail.com) letting him know you want to sell the golf course and get Ocean Shores on the road to financial recovery.

Richard Cherry

Ocean Shores



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