Memo

To: Mayor McCarthy, City Council

From: Jeff Arango, AICP - Director of Community Planning, Challis Stringer - Director of Public Works

Date: March 11, 2013

Subject: Parks Department Vehicle Proposal

Background

The South Whidbey Parks Department has a 21-passenger bus and a 9-passenger van that is reportedly surplus property. The HUB has expressed an interest in obtaining the vans, but has requested that the city accept ownership of the van.

Issues

1. In order for the city to accept ownership of the 21-passenger bus and 9-passenger van there needs to be a demonstrated need relative to the provision of public services.

The city has no interest in owning or operating a 21-passenger bus or a 9-passenger van. The city had expressed interest in conducting a pilot program for Sunday bus service through a regional mobility grant. The operation and maintenance of the van was estimated at $37,000 year. However, since the city was not successful in obtaining the grant the city is not in a position to operate this service.

2. To avoid the statutory prohibition on gifts of public funds the city would need to either have a service contract for the operation of a city service (van) by a private organization or charge for the use of a city owned facility or asset.

Given the city has no direct need for a 21-passenger bus or a 9-passenger van and does not have the capacity or legal ability to own and operate a van for the use by another organization staff does not recommend the city consider acquiring the either of the vehicles at this time.

3. The South Whidbey Parks Department procedures for dispensing with assets

The SW Parks Department likely has to follow a detailed public process for relinquishing assets and cannot directly donate the assets to a local organization.