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By [Starla Pointer](#) • Staff Writer • February 19, 2018 

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# Boquist expects more grant money for Carlton water

CARLTON — State Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, told residents Thursday he expects Carlton to receive another \$5.15 million grant for its water system.

The city already has secured \$4.5 million in grant money from the state, including \$2.5 million for improving the Panther Creek reservoir to make it fish friendly and raise the level of the dam, and \$2 million toward other aspects of redoing the water system. The additional \$5.15 million grant, which will go toward replacing leaky transmission lines and finishing rehabilitation of the old concrete reservoir, should be confirmed Friday, Feb. 23, he said.

City Manager Chad Olsen called the state senator an asset in helping the city secure funds toward a sorely needed water repair, cleanup and improvement project, estimated to cost a total of about \$10 million.

“Everything we do is focused on building capacity,” Olsen noted.

Boquist spoke to resident briefly at the beginning of Thursday night’s community forum. Attendees applauded the senator and thanked him for his efforts on behalf of Carlton.

One man noted that without the lottery grants, citizens would have had to pay the entire cost. “That would have ended up in our water bills,” he said.

Boquist also discussed his efforts to sponsor a bill in the last Legislative session that addressed suicide and gun violence, and talked about cap, trade and invest legislation and statewide transportation improvements.

In response to a question from the audience, he said he has “no problem with closing the loophole” to expand federal gun laws to apply to people convicted of domestic abuse against partners to whom they aren’t married. He also wants it possible for state police to target felons who try to purchase firearms, he said.

After the senator left, city officials discussed upcoming projects in the city. Other future projects include developing an intertie with McMinnville and Dayton for emergency water; major sewer system improvements; system development charge rate revisions; and other items.

Along with city projects, Carlton will see ODOT improve the north leg of Highway 47 in the city. The 2021 work will add curbs, sidewalks and bike pathways.

Olsen and other city officials also discussed the May election, in which voters will decide whether to fund construction of a new public safety building.

Originally, city officials thought they could save enough to pay for a new city hall and police department. However, when cost estimates were more than double what they expected, they decided to seek a bond to pay for a separate public safety facility with space for officers to work, secure interview rooms and evidence areas, and other needs.

The bond would cost property tax payers about 96 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation in its first years, dropping to about 69 cents per \$1,000 before it's paid off, Olsen said. That would mean the owner of a house assessed at \$175,000 would pay about \$168 a year initially.

The city still hopes to replace city hall, which is small, outdated and not earthquake proof, Olsen said. But that will be done out of the general fund, he said.