City of Bainbridge Island Opens Books With Launch of OpenGov Platform

Bainbridge Island, Wash., (June, 2015) Finance Director Ellen Schroer announced today the launch of a financial analysis platform powered by OpenGov.com that provides residents, elected officials and staff unprecedented access to the City’s finances.

The new web-based tool provides instant access to the City of Bainbridge Island’s finances in an interactive, user-friendly format. The intuitive interface makes it easier to explore how taxpayer money is collected and spent. The platform may be accessed at http://www.bainbridgewa.gov/691/OpenGov.

“This is an important step in our continuing effort to create a transparent local government, and I am proud that the City of Bainbridge Island is among the early adopters choosing to leverage the benefits of the OpenGov technology,” commented City Manager Doug Schulze.

The OpenGov platform displays government spending and revenue detail from 2010 to the present. Users can view historical revenue and expenditure trends over time and explore multiple views of financial data, including by fund, department, expense or revenue type. The current year report provides insight into spending and revenues year-to-date through March. For example, visitors to the platform can use the new tool to answer frequently asked questions such as “What did the city spend on personnel over the past five years?” or “How much did the city collect in sales tax?” and then share that information directly from the platform via email or on social media.

With the OpenGov Checkbook report visitors can quickly view and search thousands of expenditure transactions dating back to 2010. The data can be instantly searched and filtered according to specific detail such as vendor name, date, description and even dollar amount.

“We are excited to provide this additional tool for residents who are interested in seeing how the City spends its resources. It’s especially suited to those people who want to do their own analysis and drill down into the details of the City’s finances,” explained Schroer.

Beyond sharing information with the public, City of Bainbridge Island staff can also use OpenGov internally to create custom reports, manage operations to budget, and keep administrators informed. With today’s launch, the City of Bainbridge Island joins a growing list of nearly 300 leading cities, counties, state agencies, school systems, and special districts across the country that leverage OpenGov technology.

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