

PORT COMMISSION REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING – June 26, 2019

The Port of Port Townsend Commission met in regular session at the Commission Building, 333 Benedict Street, Port Townsend, WA

Present: Commissioners –Putney, Hanke & Tucker
Executive Director Pivarnik
Finance Director & Port Auditor Berg
Deputy Director Toews
Minutes – Nelson
Attorney Chmelik (via Skype & phone audio/visual)

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Putney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Hanke moved to approve the Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS (00:00:54):

Bertram Levy commented and made suggestions on Citizens Advisory Committees.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA (00:02:00):

A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2019

B. Approval of Warrants

Warrant #060671 through #060681 in the amount of \$15,981.76 for Payroll & Benefits

Electronic Payment in the amount of \$64,538.67 for Payroll & Benefits

Warrant #060682 through #060734 in the amount of \$87,015.33 for Accounts Payable

Electronic Debit in the amount of \$12,881.15 for WA State Dept. of Revenue Combined

Excise Tax Return for May 2019

Warrant #058292 as a VOID

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Hanke seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

V. SECOND READING (Action Items):

VI. FIRST READING (Discussion Only):

VII. REGULAR BUSINESS:

A. Resolution No. 704-19 – Rescinding Resolution No. 698-19, Multi-year Levy (00:02:17):

Commissioner Hanke believes it's a mistake to rescind the resolution (698-19). He stated if the community chooses not to tax itself, the community is losing out on many jobs. He believes though, that it is a mistake to not let the community discuss the IDD and vote.

Commissioner Putney expressed his concerns regarding the cost to the Port of \$10K to have the IDD on the ballot, and the fact that the public can campaign for their cause, but the Port is prohibited to campaign. Mr. Pivarnik corrected the amount the Port may spend.

Commissioner Tucker stated from the start he was opposed to putting the IDD resolution out the way it was introduced. His desire was to involve the community for a year or so and then introduce the resolution. He would like to see it run like a school bond.

Commissioner Hanke believes many petitioners didn't sign in opposition to the tax but did want the opportunity to vote.

Commissioner Tucker stated there needs to be a level of communication with the community. He would like to see it on the November ballot, but does not want to see it fail. He would rather hold off and educate the public first.

Commissioner Putney expressed his dismay at the people collecting signatures, who he said, had a lot to lose in their communities. He discussed the future of the jetty, among others, if the IDD was delayed one to two years. He would like to support jobs here and create jobs in other districts, but it cannot be done without money.

Commissioner Hanke stated he respects Mr. Neuenschwander for putting the petition out. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Tucker asked Attorney Chmelik what the Port could do legally to support the IDD.

Mr. Chmelik stated the Port could put out an article in the Port's newsletter, but it would have to be objective stating positive and negative aspects of the proposed initiative without opinion. He discussed further.

The Commission asked whether a commissioner or staff could give their opinion on the local radio show. Further discussion included free speech, public funds, number of meetings allowed, etc.

Mr. Pivarnik reminded this would be brought back to next commission meeting. He added a resolution needs to be adopted by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners by August 6 to be placed on the ballot.

B. Direction re Citizens Advisory Committee (00:32:06):

Commissioner Putney announced this was discussed at this morning's workshop. Commissioner Tucker added the differences were discussed between an "ad hoc" and a "standing" committee. Attorney Chmelik provided further clarification.

Commissioner Tucker explained his reasons for preferring a standing committee.

Commissioner Hanke discussed past problems with the PSAC (Port Strategic Advisory Committee) standing committee and did not want a repeat.

Mr. Pivarnik recommended forwarding the previous PSAC resolution and bylaws to the commission for review. Questions need to be answered as to what is staff's role/the commission's role?

Commissioners commented on a parking committee.

Chris Brignoli provided his opinion on committees, based on his past committee involvement as a Shipwright's Co-op member.

Mr. Toews stated he has a sense from listening to the Commission and the public, of a draft resolution, which he would present at the July 10 meeting.

C. May 2019 Financials (00:50:10):

Ms. Berg reported the Port is doing well compared to the prior year. In summary, operating revenues are ahead of budget. Operating expenses are down compared to last year and budget. Non-operating revenue is up (runway grant reimbursements and sale of New Day Fisheries buildings). She stated cash numbers are up and the Port is moving in the right direction.

VIII. STAFF COMMENTS (00:52:36):

Ms. Nelson announced the Boat Haven parking lot closure July 1-3.

Ms. Berg stated staff is preparing for the new Executive Assistant. She announced she is working on the mid-year review and insurance renewals. She submitted the 2018 Annual Report, which would be published on the Port's website tomorrow.

Mr. Toews announced litigation with the Seattle Maritime Academy (SMA) for unlawful transfer and abandonment of the John Cobb vessel in 2016 has been settled. SMA paid the Port \$212K. The suit will be dismissed with no avenue for appeal. For the record, he provided his gratitude to Attorneys Seth Goodstein and Carolyn Lake of Goodstein Law for their legal counsel.

Mr. Pivarnik stated he is proud of staff for pulling together financially.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (00:58:05):

Commissioner Putney discussed his participation on the Broadband committee.

X. NEXT PUBLIC WORKSHOP/REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING:

Wednesday, July 10, 2019. Workshop at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Port Commission Building, 333 Benedict St, Port Townsend.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The regular session recessed into Executive Session at 6:33 p.m. to discuss Real Estate, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (b) and Personnel, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (g), duration of thirty minutes with potential action.

XII. RECONVENING & ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

XII. RECONVENING & ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

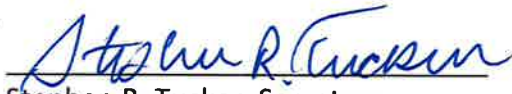
Commissioner Putney moved to extend the Executive Director's contract through June 30, 2020.

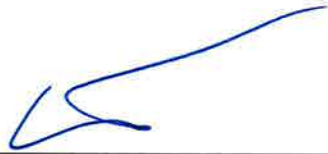
Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Commission.

ATTEST:


Stephen R. Tucker, Secretary


William W. Putney III, President

approved by phone
Peter W. Hanke, Vice President