

Public Comments for the November 10, 2021 Commission Meeting

From: Susan Freeman <susanleopoldfreeman@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:06 PM

To: PPT Info <info@portofpt.com>

Subject: Quilcene Marina

To who it may concern:

I'm writing to express my dismay that the Port is delaying working on the Quilcene Marina for 4 more years. We pay taxes in South County and would like to see some work and improvements on our marina here. This has been delayed before. Please consider that we, as tax paying citizens, would like some money spent here in Quilcene.

thank you,

Susan Freeman
2110 E Quilcene

From: Scott Freeman <sfreeman991@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:19 AM

To: PPT Info <info@portofpt.com>

Subject: Quilcene marina budget

Dear Port of Port Townsend Staff and Board Members,

I am a resident of Quilcene and regular user of the recreational resources on Quilcene Bay. I have reviewed the proposed budget for Port activities at the Quilcene marina and would urge the Board and staff to give careful consideration to giving higher priority to the Port property and facilities here. I understand that we are a small community, but I also see us as something bigger, because we represent the tension currently playing out in rural communities across America. This tension has been born of decades of neglect in terms of public policy, and has resulted in large economic and cultural disparities between wealthier and more-urban areas and communities like ours. The citizens of Quilcene are responding to this history of neglect with action: originating and implementing grass-roots efforts like the Worthington Mansion restoration and associated community events, supporting several thriving new or expanding businesses, and expanding programs and facilities at the Quilcene schools. Young families are moving in, not out.

A well-designed and executed marina restoration will add considerable momentum to this broad-based effort to bring new life to Quilcene. It would also let south county residents know that they are cared about and valued by the larger community.

Thank you for the time and care you devote to public service. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Scott Freeman
2110 E Quilcene Rd, Quilcene WA 98376
360.316.6641

From: Jeff Chapman <JChapman@co.jefferson.wa.us>

Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 4:13 PM

To: Eron Berg <Eron@portofpt.com>

Subject: Information regarding raising the IDD tax levy

Written supplemental comment to the Port regarding Resolution 757-21, to increase the IDD tax levy by \$1 million dollars for a \$2.6 million collection in 2022.

As the County Assessor, I have been keeping taxing districts informed of assessed valuation changes from year to year. This year assessments are rising on an average 10% from 2020. We are anticipating an additional increase in 2022 which will likely significantly exceed this year's increase. Valuations for tax purposes are set based on what property will sell for as of January 1 of each year.

Valuation increases do not determine tax increases. The amount to collect is certified to me, and I divide that amount by the valuation base. Levy rates may rise or drop in order to ensure the proper collection. While raising values does not mean rising taxes, levying a significantly higher collection amount will. I do hear from taxpayers concerned about rising property taxes since I am one of the two tax processing departments, the other being the County Treasurer. Allowing for incremental increases by spreading collection amounts over a long term through bonding is why the statutes regarding IDD levies were changed. Collecting the allowed 20 year IDD levy in a much shorter time will on one hand reduce the cost of debt servicing, but it will also put more of a tax burden on property owners beginning next year. As long as the public is informed and understand regarding the decisions that will affect their upcoming tax liability, then my concerns with raising a tax levy substantially are addressed.

The median home value in Jefferson County for last year (current year taxes) was \$353,824. For a 1.6 million collection, the IDD levy rate was \$0.2535/\$1000. The Port IDD share of the tax bill for a median home was \$89.69. This year the median home value is \$386,783. For a 2.6 million collection, the IDD levy rate will be around \$0.3741/1000 for a median home tax bill of \$144.69, which is a 61% increase in the property taxes going to the IDD levy.

Thank you,

Jeff Chapman | Jefferson County Assessor
P.O. Box 1220 | Port Townsend, WA 98368
360-385-9105

Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:42 AM
To: PPT Info <info@portofpt.com>
Subject: Quilcene herb Beck Marina budget proposals

Dear commissioners, I am writing with regard to the proposed budget for her back Marina. I wanted to first address my impression of last weeks zoom meeting. I truly feel that part of the frustration you have seen directed towards you is a good amount due to people feeling like their concerns about the marina and its upkeep have fallen on deaf ears. I have felt condescended to when I asked for reasons why money is not being set aside for marina repairs, dredging etc. when previously they had been promised. I understand that there can be budgetary constraints and I know your job is difficult with determining where the funds should be spent, but It feels like the promises just keep getting pushed back further and further.

I understand Quilcene is not as big of a money maker as point Hudson, how ever when you do things like take out the gas facility, remove camping access, close up what used to be a public restroom and do not keep up the facility and the docks it would necessarily reduce the usability and therefore the revenue generation of the facility. Thank you for your time. Really hopeful that our taxpayer dollars can be used down here to make our facility as nice as any other Marina under the Port of Port Townsend umbrella.
Sincerely, Keith Meyer DC

From: Andrea Hegland <rubymaxlily@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:55 AM

To: Bill Putney, dtoepper@jeffpud.org; Eron Berg, jmauro@cityofpt.us; jrandall@jeffpud.org; kcollins@jeffpud.org; kstreett@jeffpud.org; Pam Petranek; Pete Hanke; publiccomment@cityofpt.us; sking@cityofpt.org

Subject: Port Townsend entrance changes

Dear representatives,

Congratulations. You have proposed to destroy one of the things that makes Port Townsend unique.

The wide boulevard graced by the tall poplars cannot be replaced with a narrower road way and lollipop trees...or any other tree...without looking and feeling like some street in a relatively recent pop up town on the east side.

Poplars ARE the official tree here. Look around. They've been here longer than many non-native individuals that call Port Townsend their home and look down their noses at non-native vegetation.

Looking back—we've all been through hell the past two years. Why would you put our community through this??!! Are you mad?

The kids on my street are afraid of the wind because they think it will kill them. Now you are suggesting to further tear our community apart...? The reasons stated simply don't rise to the occasion.

There is no problem to fix here. Have you seen the condition of our roads? Plenty of work there.

Looking forward—every year is hotter than the prior. Drought and heatwaves more frequent. Etc. Can you please just focus on community building activities instead of ones that put us through more hell?

I assure you I will vote for anyone other than whomever advances this idea. Maybe I'll run myself.

~ Andrea Hegland, 51st Street, Port Townsend

From: Anne Ricker <quilcenegallery@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:31 PM

To: Pam Petranek <Pam@portofpt.com>; Pete Parrish <pete@portofpt.com>; Bill Putney <bill@portofpt.com>; Eron Berg <Eron@portofpt.com>; Eric Toews <eric@portofpt.com>

Subject: Correcting misunderstandings

Hello again from Quilcene's LLIC.

There are a few big misunderstandings that surfaced as we watched the Wednesday commission meeting.

First, nearly everyone in Quilcene we've talked with is eager to take part in the planning process and is grateful for Jeannie McMacken's survey.

Pam's suggestion--of Port staff conducting "touchstone" meetings with community groups that have focused, actionable subjects--is excellent. Pete is correct that some disillusioned, vociferous community people disrupt meetings, so staff rather than commissioners is a good alternative. We do wonder, however, where they will find the time. You are all under the gun for some huge county projects, which makes us more appreciative of your efforts in Quilcene.

Second, when we mentioned needing an attorney, it was NOT to litigate the Port, but to seek legal advice on our rights as citizens vis-a-vis public property and whether it would be feasible to investigate forming a nonprofit community corporation to operate the Port property here, which aspects would be appropriate to include, how to budget such an effort, who would liable, etc. etc. These are questions that require legal responses.

Third, the Linger Longer Advisory committee does not take an adversarial position toward anyone at the Port. We formed to address Port issues here, and our mission written in 2017 is "to establish all current uses, needs, and deficits of the Port of Port Townsend's Quilcene property and then determine which improvements will create the highest and best aesthetics, safety, and economic potential for all commercial and recreational users."

We hope you understand that we are not negative about our future. To the contrary, we are ready to get to work on "actionable" solutions.

From: Anne Ricker <quilcenegallery@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 1:21 PM

To: Bill Putney; Pam Petranek; Eron Berg; Eric Toews; Karen Erickson

Subject: Fw: Correction !Apologies!

Here is the letter from the LLIC that did not get read at the Commission meeting Wednesday due to a communications glitch. It was written on October 24.

It was not the intent of the LLIC's letter to insult current Port of Port Townsend officials.

We are uniformly pleased that Jeannie McMacken was hired to conduct the visioning survey and are gratified by the results. They mirror closely and underscore most of our community's long-held positions and views. And, OF COURSE we wish to collaborate with the Port on future Quilcene plans and projects.

We simply chose to be candid about the history that has created our caution. Trust, like skepticism, is earned over time, through experience. Wouldn't you prefer to know how we really feel than to see insincere smiles? No one benefits from closed-door private denigration either. We can do better now that we agree.

All of you have enormous challenges countywide and are squarely attacking all the problems not of your creation that have taken years to mature. We remain grateful for your attention to and actions in our small portion.

We have formed the committee as requested. We listened to Jeannie's presentation and are eager to participate. And now? This should have been read into the meeting record. Please accept our apologies.