

Comments for the March 24, 2021 Port of Port Townsend Commission Meeting

March 24, 2021

Dear Port Commissioners,

Please consider rethinking your decision on March 10 requesting Jefferson County to consider the port for the Associate Development Organization (ADO) designation for the next biennium.

Let's consider (and expand on) an analogy used by Commissioner Hanke during discussion at the last meeting where he compared acquiring the ADO designation to the purchase of a new car. Then we might consider the port to be a "garage" and inside this garage you can find a fleet of "vehicles" we already own. Point Hudson, Boat Haven marina and the boat yard, the airport, Quilcene...I hope you get the picture.

Just like our real cars, the vehicles in our port garage work hard for us. But they require maintenance to keep running. Some of this maintenance is routine, some of it has been deferred, and all of it has associated cost. And some of this cost, whether in dollars or staff time, is unknown. Let's consider just a few unknown maintenance costs for our existing vehicle fleet: storm water treatment at Boat Haven; breakwater design/constructability issues at Point Hudson; continued efforts to get the on-line marina reservation system operational. I'm sure you can think of other items that can be added to this list...I hope you get the picture.

I believe we must keep our current vehicles well maintained and running smoothly before going to the dealer to buy a new one. The expense of the new car would be better spent taking care of the cars we already have. What would our community be like if we had to scrap one of those cars in our garage?

In terms of economic growth, maybe we should consider it this way. Rather than maximizing gain, it might be better to first consider minimizing loss.

Thank you,

Carl Berger

bastante19@yahoo.com

702.493.6330 cell

360.385.9479 home

From: Eric Taylor
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Eron Berg; Pam Petranek; Bill Putney; Pete Hanke
Subject: "Associate Development Organization"-- nay

Port Director Eron Berg:

I see by an article in last Monday's Peninsula Daily News that the Port of Port Townsend is considering taking on an additional role as the county's Associate Development Organization, which is apparently being fulfilled currently by EDC Team Jefferson. Having been a pilot at the airport since 1995, and a hangar owner there since 1998, I have had a lot of first-hand experience with the Port over the years and I think this is a poor idea. From the article:

"Petranek added that the port's staff already has its hands full with daily operations — at the Boat Haven marina and yard, Point Hudson Marina and RV Park, Jefferson County International Airport and Quilcene Marina."

IMHO Commissioner Petranek hit the nail right on the head. I think the Port already has a pretty full plate with their existing responsibilities—especially considering the Point Hudson breakwater issues which will cost the Port an immense amount of time & money to address, as well as the Port's Quilcene facilities which seem to have been neglected for a long time. I have personally seen issues at the airport, in particular with regards to the Port's rental hangars and their misuse or lack of use, that I feel are strictly due to Port mismanagement and/or a lack of staff attention.

As a county resident, property owner, taxpayer, and airport stakeholder, I urge the Port to just leave this ADO business to EDC Jefferson, and strive to excel at those things which are already part of your responsibilities.

Thank you for your attention,

Eric Taylor
172 Wycoff Road
Port Townsend, WA 98368

cc: Port Commissioners
County Commissioner Greg Brotherton

From: Liz Hoenig
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Bill Putney; Pam Petranek; Pete Hanke
Cc: jeffbocc@co.jefferson.wa.us; Eron Berg; Philip Morley
Subject: Don't get distracted...

Dear Port Commissioners,

We encourage you to not get distracted by the recent "brush fire" related to who should take on the role of ADO (Associate Development Organization) for Jefferson County. Brian Kuh's (Executive Director of the EDC/Team Jefferson) quote, "It's going to be hot and heavy", should give you a clue that this is not something you want to step into lightly. The fact is, the Port of Port Townsend has all the authority it needs right now, as Attorney Chmelick noted, to act on behalf of Jefferson County citizens regarding economic development. Use the tools you have - your adopted Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements - the IDD funds approved by Jefferson County voters - intergovernmental coordination - private partnerships - and get going!

Get it on your schedule in 2022 to update the Strategic Plan. That is the planning process that should determine whether the Port pursues the role of the ADO - in collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners. Sounds to us like there needs to be a thorough assessment of the existing EDC/Team Jefferson and whether it is meeting the needs of our community before the Port pursues something new.

One more final reason to back off. This is not in the adopted budget for 2021. The Port is finally on a fiscally stable and responsible course. Please don't muck it up by doing a mid-year budget amendment to work on a solution to a non-existent problem.

Sincerely,

Charley Kanieski and Liz Hoenig Kanieski

--

LIZ HOENIG KANIESKI (ki/kin)

710 Reed Street

Port Townsend, WA 98368

We reside on land unjustly colonized in Coast Salish territory, including the S'Klallam. We humbly commit to listen, learn, and seek to understand our responsibilities.