

PORT COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING – Wednesday, September 13, 2023

The Port of Port Townsend Commission met in workshop session at the Point Hudson Pavilion Building, 355 Hudson Street, Port Townsend, and also online via Zoom.

Present: Commissioners Petranek, Hanke, and Hasse  
Executive Director Eron Berg  
Deputy Director Eric Toews  
Director of Finance and Administration Abigail Berg  
Operations Manager Chris Sparks  
Harbormaster Kristian Ferrero  
Port Recorder Joanna Sanders

I. CALL TO ORDER (Rec. 00:01:00)

Commissioner Petranek called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. 2024 BUDGET – Discuss Tax Levies with Jefferson County Assessor (00:01:23)

Jeff Chapman and Lauralee Kiesel of the Jefferson County Assessor's Office reviewed market trends and levy rates of other jurisdictions. They reported the Port's regular levy is set at 1% maximum, per statute. At \$1.01 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the levy would generate \$1,092,315.98 plus new construction \$13,275.36. While the Port can levy up to its IDD limit of \$4.1 million, it currently has levied \$2.6 million. There was extended discussion of the following: housing market, low-income property tax exemption threshold, whether the sewer system installation would impact future valuations in Port Hadlock/Tri Area, and the County's policy on valuation of public property when exempt from tax.

III. SHORT FAMILY FARM UPDATE (00:44:15)

Deputy Director Eric Toews led a review of the draft resolution including a steering committee application. Focused on economic development, the Port's desire is to support and grow agriculture and is focused on infrastructure. The resolution outlines the planning process and objectives and will be officially presented for adoption at the September 27 Commission meeting.

Commission discussion centered on whether or not to specify the goal of achieving organic certification and allowing farmers to weigh in on such parameters. Discussion ensued about the member representation, including a Jefferson County Commissioner representative because of the connection to the Drainage District or whether another county representative would be suitable or possibly a tribal representative. It was noted that Port Executive Staff would be present at meetings as well as the potential for a rotating Port Commissioner. The Commission felt a community open house before the application period closes would have value.

IV. WPPA, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT GUIDE –CHAPTER 5 CHAPTER 5 PORT OPERATIONS AND CHAPTER 6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Rec. 1:44:15)


Commissioner Hasse led a review of Chapter 5, focusing on comparative performance metrics and strategic planning goals such as seaweed aquaculture. Referenced were Joni Blanchard's comments on maintaining small boats and the wooden fleet as an important part of marina revenue. Noteworthy comments on Chapter 6 were calling for Ports to be involved in affordable housing and business incubators. Chapter 6 will continue to be reviewed next month.

V. ADJOURNMENT (Rec. 02:00:00): The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m., there being no further business before the Commission.

ATTEST:

  
Peter W. Hanke, Secretary

  
Pamela A. Petranek, President

  
Carol L. Hasse, Vice President