

PORT COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING – Wednesday, February 11, 2026

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

Present: Commissioners Hasse, Hanke, and Petranek  
Executive Director Eron Berg  
Deputy Director Eric Toews  
Director of Finance and Administration Connie Anderson  
Operations Manager Chris Sparks  
Harbormaster Kristian Ferrero  
Capital Projects Administrator Natalie Toews  
Lease and Contracts Administrator Heron Scott  
Port Recorder Joanna Sanders

I. CALL TO ORDER (Rec. 00:00:11)

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

II. SHORTS FARM CAPITAL PROJECTS – RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS (00:00:33)

Deputy Director Eric Toews led the presentation. At the Commission's June retreat, there will be a discussion on a recommended course of action.

Commissioners were generally aligned with the options presented. Also mentioned were the importance of Jefferson County's food security and energy resilience as well as investing in on-site water, power, and septic. There was support for staff soliciting input from the steering committee as well as the broader list of steering committee applicants in one-on-one conversations.

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY DISCUSSION FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATIVE GROUP MEETING (REC. 01:26:00)

Executive Director Eron Berg and Deputy Director Eric Toews facilitated a discussion with the Commission in generating the following questions toward the ICG goal of developing the outline/scope of the 2026 work plan. Commissioner Petranek introduced chair Karen Bennet, Chair of the EDC.

- Would you start a business in Jefferson County?
- Is there difficulty finding the skilled workers/work force needed for your business?
- How to grow job opportunities?
- What workforce training can we encourage/attract?
- How to expand our practical skills here in Jefferson County for resilience and self-reliance?
- What kind of businesses do we want to attract?
- How do we ease the barriers and process of starting/doing business?
- What infrastructure inventory is needed (utilities)?
- What land use/buildable lands inventory is available?
- How can we adjust our expectations to fit within the confines of energy systems that have a future?
- What can be done to support local food production?
- How to reduce taxes that are a barrier to starting or doing business?
- What kind of businesses have done well because of our location?
- Are the connections in place to know about and access local businesses?
- How can we access the available skilled labor force?
- What can the Port do to strengthen the local economy?
- How do we create clarity in purpose? (land, zoning, and infrastructure)
- Do we have appropriately zoned, suitable lands to accommodate current and future projected employment/jobs?
- Does the zoned land have adequate infrastructure to support development?
- What have we done to reduce barriers to permitting, etc. to establish new businesses in our community?

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (Rec. 02:10:58)

V. ADJOURNMENT (Rec. 01:57:00)

At 11:40 a.m., the meeting adjourned there being no further business before the Commission.

ATTEST:

  
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Carol L. Hasse, Secretary