

Joanna Sanders

Subject: FW: Public Comment: 2023 Permanent moorage rate increase

From: Jeff Kelety <jgkelety@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 7:42 PM

To: Pete Hanke <phanke@portofpt.com>; Carol Hasse <Carol@portofpt.com>; Pam Petranek <Pam@portofpt.com>; Eron Berg <Eron@portofpt.com>

Subject: Public Comment: 2023 Permanent moorage rate increase

For Public Comment

Port Commission Meeting, October 12

Commissioners, Director Berg and Port staff:

As stated in the Port packet from October September 28th, “the Port planned a consistent 3% annual increase for permanent moorage tenants for (3) three years.” On behalf of the Jefferson County Moorage Tenants Association, I’d like to speak in support of adhering to this plan for 2023.

From the outset it is worth noting that the preponderance of our moorage tenants are not anonymous, out-of-town, large-yacht owners. At present over 70 percent of our moorage tenants live in Jefferson County. They race 25’ Thunderbirds. They sail family-friendly Folkboats. They crab and fish in local waters in their boats. They cruise on dependable and seaworthy, 50-year-old Grand Bank trawlers. They painstakingly maintain over 100 wooden boats, many of which are viewed by over 30,000 visitors at our annual Wooden Boat Festival. These are the residents whose hard work, passion, financial sacrifices, and commitment help sustain the maritime traditions that are core to the identity of Jefferson County as both an historic seaport, community and as an on-going, vibrant working waterfront.

And while an additional 2% rate increase will not impact every Jefferson County boat owner, it will impact many. The agreement between the Port and the moorage tenants last year for a consistent, three-year 3% rate increase was to provide permanent moorage tenants with predictable increases intended to smooth out the inflationary highs and lows of a choppy economy and thus make it a little easier to continue local boat ownership. This rational still holds true. Staying the course on a 3% increase means that there will be a few more financial resources available to apply toward the maintenance of local boats, resources which are often spent right here in Jefferson County.

Naturally, the moorage tenants are cognizant of this year’s significant increase in CPI. We understand that it is the Port’s job to find revenue where it can to meet operational and capital expenses. Accordingly, the moorage tenants are not asking the Port to make a rate commitment beyond 2023; we will address 2024 rates next year. But the moorage tenants also believe that increases in other areas such as guest moorage can mitigate the reduction in the Port’s proposed 5% permanent moorage increase for 2023.

And finally, the moorage tenants encourage the Port to continue the planned 3% rate increase in 2023 because it will serve to bolster the strong sense of trust and partnership that has developed during Director Berg’s tenure. The moorage tenants value this relationship and look forward to deepening our mutual regard and commitment in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Kelety
Jefferson County Moorage Tenants Association

