

News *from the* Port

PORT OF PORT TOWNSEND



Plans for a \$4.8 rebuild of the airport runway are moving ahead. *Photo by Scott Wilson*

Takeoff on runway

A project to rebuild the 26-year-old runway at the Port-operated Jefferson County International Airport (JCIA) will soon go out to bid, although construction dates are not yet set.

The rebuild is mandated by federal aviation standards, and most of the estimated \$4.8 million will come from federal coffers, said Port Interim Executive Director Jim Pivarnik.

“There are details to work out, but this project is moving ahead with construction either in late 2019 or 2020,” said Pivarnik. “The new runway will be an important part of the Port’s infrastructure and emergency preparedness obligation.”

The Port Commission is watching the project closely, said Commissioner Bill Putney III, an experienced pilot and former president of the pilot’s association.

The Port had initially hoped the 3,000-foot runway could just be re-surfaced. But federal design standards now call for a “crown” engineering pattern for the surface to maximize water runoff, rather than the current “shed” pattern.

Deputy Director Eric Toews, who has been working directly with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials, said the project will probably go to

bid in April 2019. Port will do everything in its power to minimize the impact on pilots and on JCIA businesses, he said. It’s possible pilots will be able to use the taxiway for landing, although that’s up to the FAA, he said.

“We know this will cause inconvenience for some, but getting the work done now means it will be almost entirely funded by the FAA and will give us a great runway for many years to come,” said Toews. Port officials are looking for state grants that can fill in most or all of the Port’s match for the project and continue to search for ways to minimize impacts.

Administration cuts costs

The Port of Port Townsend’s administration has cut two full-time positions and is also reducing contract work toward budget savings of over \$300,000.

“We’re doing more with less,” said Interim Executive Director Jim Pivarnik, who came to the post in early September. “We’ve got to do our part toward financial health, even as we ask leaseholders and moorage tenants to do theirs.”

However, Pivarnik and new Deputy Director Eric Toews acknowledged that their plates are very full with critical projects for the time being. Only Director of Finance Abigail Berg, who doubles as the Port’s IT expert, her Finance department and Executive Assistant Sue Nelson, remain in Port Administration.

In the recently approved 2019 operating budget, \$220,000 was cut from administrative expenses, including reductions in legal and consultant fees. Additional savings were realized when Director of Operations Greg Englin took the lead job with the Port of Kingston, and Pivarnik decided to not fill the job.

Read more about the budget:
www.portoftpt.com



A word from the director

With 2019 approaching, your Port stands ready to tackle some significant challenges: rising costs, infrastructure that needs attention, and businesses requiring more assistance than ever.



Jim Pivarnik

community will be very important in the coming year.

Having the opportunity to be familiar with most ports in the State of Washington, there are many that are prospering during these economic times.

Finding balance while supporting local economic vitality will be key in the coming year. These types of issues are being felt by most local small municipalities around the country. Tax revenues are not keeping pace with inflation and grant opportunities are being severely curtailed. That said, now is the right time to try to reduce expenses and slowly grow revenue.

However, we need to be mindful we can't cut our way to prosperity.

In the coming weeks, I will be recommending to the Port Commission to look at properties that are currently non-performing assets. Some of these need a capital infusion and might better be managed by existing tenants. Sticking with Port's core businesses while looking at new opportunities to provide economic stimulus for our changing

Transportation hubs and ports with terminal activity are doing quite well. Imports and exports provide resources that allow these ports to fund other activities and facilities.

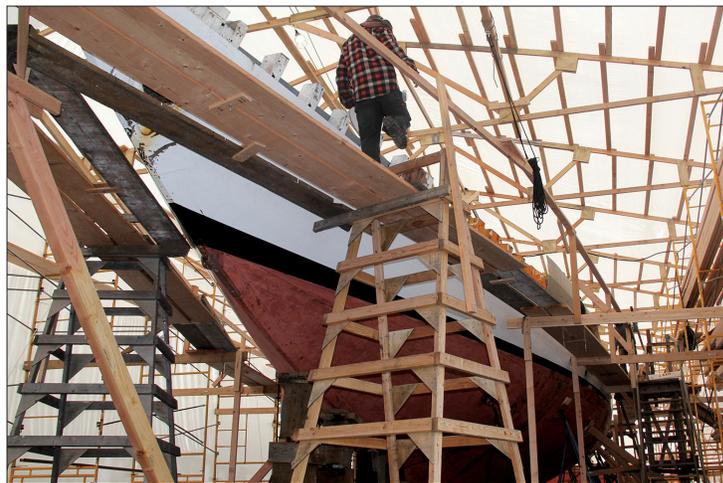
However, the Port of Port Townsend was built with a different model. Port Townsend is often compared to Port Angeles and Anacortes, but those two ports' budgets are heavily supported by terminal activity.

Your Port will continue to strive to support local business while providing a great visitor experience for customers coming from around the Salish Sea and the West Coast. The support and ideas from this community are vital to the well-being of your Port.

Keep in mind my door is always open, and I'd like to hear your thoughts. Together, we can make a difference.

*Jim Pivarnik is the Interim Executive Director of the Port
His email: jim@portofpt.com. His phone: (360) 385-0656*

Bits & Pieces



■ Adventuress rebuilt

The schooner *Adventuress*, long the pride of the Port Townsend waterfront, is nearing the completion of a 10-year long rebuild at the hands of local shipwrights. The ship, built in 1913, is receiving her new deck, with most of the work being done by Haven Boatworks, and completion expected next summer. The \$1.5 million for the rebuild has come from state and private funds. Of Haven's 40 employees, 20 are working on the *Adventuress*. 133-foot *Adventuress* is owned and operated as a floating classroom by the nonprofit Sound Experience. *Read more at www.soundexp.org*

■ Deputy Director Toews



Eric Toews, a longtime planner and in-house counsel for the Port, was named the new deputy director in a management reorganization. Toews has mixed legal work with planning in the Port Townsend area for almost 30 years, and has worked for the Port on contract or on staff since 2010. Though not a skipper, Toews said he loves boats. "I'm the guy who mixes the margaritas to get invited to go sailing." *Read more about Toews: www.portofpt.com*

■ Budget time

The Port Commission approved the 2019 operating budget in early November that spends 4.4 percent less than 2018 expenses and generates 5.2 percent more in revenues. The combination should leave the Port with operating income of \$1.156 million for the year, in keeping with the Port's goal of building an operating reserve. The 2019 capital budget is now under commission review. The first draft projects expenses of \$5.23 million, of which \$4.4 million is a rebuild of the airport runway – 90 percent of it from federal sources. *See more about the budgets: www.portofpt.com*

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www.portofpt.com

2701 Washington, Port Townsend WA 98368

360-385-0656 info@portofpt.com



Steve Tucker, Chairsteve@portofpt.com
 Pete Hanke, Commissioner..... phanke@portofpt.com
 Bill Putney III, Commissioner bill@portofpt.com
 Jim Pivarnik, Interim Executive Director jim@portofpt.com
 Eric Toews, Deputy Director..... eric@portofpt.com
 Abigail Berg, Finance Director.....abigail@portofpt.com
 Sue Nelson, Executive Assistant.....snelson@portofpt.com