

PORT COMMISSION MEETING & 2012 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING-- November 9, 2011

The Port of Port Townsend Commission met in regular session in the Commission Chambers, 375 Hudson St, Port Townsend, WA

Present: Commissioners –Thompson, Erickson, Collins
Deputy Director – Pivarnik
Auditor - Taylor
Attorney Harris - Goodstein Law Group
Minutes – Nelson

Excused: Executive Director - Crockett

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Added to the agenda, an Executive Session to discuss a litigation/real estate issue and a personnel matter, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (i), (b), and (g), with no decisions, and duration of approximately 20 minutes.

Commissioner Thompson moved to approve the Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

III. CONSENT AGENDA (1:25):

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2011
Operations Reports – October 2011

Commissioner Thompson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Not related to agenda):

None

V. PUBLIC HEARING ON 2012 OPERATING/CAPITAL BUDGET, 2012 RATES AND 2012 PROPERTY TAX LEVY (1:15):

Commissioner Thompson opened the Public Hearing at 1:01 PM.

Today is the second Public Hearing for the 2012 Operating/Capital Budget. (The first hearing was held on October 26, 2011.)

Public Comments on the Draft Budget were heard from (audio recording available on the Port's website, www.portofpt.com):

Dave Griswold, Port Townsend Marine Trades Assoc. discussed the Association's concerns on the 20% increase for short-term storage rates in the Yard.

Discussion ensued on the 20% increase.

Hearing no further Public Comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 1:13 PM.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of 2012 Property Tax Levy Amount, 2012 Operating/Capital Budget, and 2012 Operating Rates & Fees (13:31):

Commissioner Collins moved to adopt Resolution No. 567-11, Year 2012 Property Tax Levy Amount.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Collins moved to adopt Resolution No. 568-11, Year 2012 Operating/Capital Budget.

Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Collins moved to adopt Resolution No. 569-11, Year 2012 Operating Rates & Fees, with the modification to short-term storage rates in the Yard, lowering that rate to a 10% increase, from the proposed 20% increase.

Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Passenger Only Ferry Operator Update (15:33):

Mr. Pivarnik reviewed with the Commission, criteria and interviewing process with the two respondents, Salish Sea and Puget Sound Express. Based on qualifications and experience, staff recommends selecting Puget Sound Express as the preferred operator who will help in the development of marketing, the operations plan and the design of the boat.

Commissioner Erickson moved to approve Puget Sound Express as the Passenger Only Ferry Operator.

Commissioner Collins seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Letter of Support – Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act (19:43):

Mr. Pivarnik explained the Secure Rural Schools & Self-Determination Act, which allows rural schools to receive funds from local timber harvest taxes. The legislation for this Act expires the end of 2011 and Mr. Crockett has drafted a letter from the Port Commission to Congressman Doc Hastings in support of reauthorization of the Act. Staff recommends the support of the Port Commission by signing this letter.

Commissioner Thompson moved to approve the Port Commission's support of the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act.

Commissioner Collins seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

B. Approval of Warrants:

Commissioner Thompson read the warrants, as presented:

Warrant #047693 through #047722 in the amount of \$42,570.56 for Payroll

Warrant #047723 through #047732 in the amount of \$71,354.35 for Payroll Benefits and
Accounts Payable

Warrant #047733 through #047791 in the amount of \$142,679.00 for Accounts Payable

Commissioner Thompson moved to approve the warrants as presented.

Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion.

C. Redistricting Options (23:37)

Mr. Pivarnik explained how Jefferson County is required to redistrict in order to even out the population in each district. The area in District 1 is required to expand and Districts 2 and 3 are contracting. The County came up with three final alternatives (out of 7) on redistricting boundaries. There will be a Public Hearing on November 28, 2011 at the County, with a decision on December 8, 2011. No action is needed on this item, but the Commission can attend the Public Hearing.

VIII. STAFF COMMENTS (30:09):

Mr. Pivarnik reported that the Federal Government has finally given approval for ferry appropriations to the Port for the passenger only ferry.

He also reported that the Port's engineer and Orion Marine Contractors engineer have finally come to an agreement on the Travelift Pier design.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS (31:50):

Linda Herzog, representative of Quilcene Conversations, spoke of the Rural County Economic Development fund sales tax credit of .09%, which Governor Gregoire is proposing to cut in the State's budget. Quilcene depends on this money to help in the economic development of their community. She asks the Port Commission to write a letter to Gov. Gregoire urging her not to make a cut to this fund. (For more details, refer to audio recording on the Port's website, www.portofpt.com.) The Commissioners agreed to show support for the Quilcene community by sending a letter to Governor Gregoire, as described above.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (40:24):

Commissioner Erickson announced that he becomes the President of the Peninsula Development District (PDD) in 2012.

Commissioner Collins expressed his wishes to see a Commissioner take over his spot at the beginning of 2012 as a representative of the Port on the Jefferson Higher Education Committee.

Commissioner Thompson stated that he is pleased to see the 2012 Budget accepted and passed.

XI. NEXT MEETING: Next regular meeting will be held TUESDAY, November 29, 2011 at 1:00 PM in the Port Commission Chambers, 375 Hudson St, Port Townsend.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The regular session recessed into Executive Session at 1:43 PM to discuss a litigation/real estate issue, and a personnel matter pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (i), (b), and (g), duration of approximately 20 minutes, with no decisions. Ms. Nelson checked outside for any awaiting public. Finding no one, the session continued.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: The regular meeting reconvened and adjourned at 2:05 PM there being no further business to come before the Commission.

ATTEST:

John N. Collins, Secretary

David H. Thompson, President

Leif W. Erickson, Vice President