

PORT COMMISSION MEETING– September 11, 2013

The Port of Port Townsend Commission met in regular session at the Timberhouse Restaurant, 295534 US 101, Quilcene, WA.

Present: Commissioners – Erickson, Tucker, Thompson
Executive Director – Crockett
Deputy Director - Pivarnik
Auditor - Khile
Attorney - Lake
Minutes – Nelson

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Added to the agenda by Mr. Crockett: Executive Session on Real Estate, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (b), with no action, duration of ten minutes.

Commissioner Erickson moved to approve the Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

III. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2013

B. Operations Reports – September 2013

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Not related to agenda):

None

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Quilcene Topics (2:30):

Mr. Crockett stated there are a number of issues in the south county that need addressing. In his opinion, the item needing the most urgent attention are the floats at the Quilcene marina. He then reminded of discussions that occurred about a year and a half ago with Fish & Wildlife about the possibility of the Port taking over the boat ramp near Pleasant Harbor. He recommends bringing this up again with Fish & Wildlife. Other concerns and issues are a new fire flow system and commercial septic system in Quilcene. He believes it would be a good idea to develop a strategic plan for the south county.

Commissioner Tucker commented that he believes the Quilcene boat ramp should be a priority. He added that since there are so many empty slips, that maybe a rebuild could include fewer slips with a larger and improved boat ramp. Mr. Crockett suggested this be included in a strategic plan. He said a current redo on the marina would run around \$1M, agreeing with Commissioner Tucker on fewer slips and an improved boat ramp.

Commissioner Thompson would like to see improvements on the walkway along the boat ramp dock so that it is more easily accessible.

Mr. Crockett discussed the infrastructure needs of Quilcene and questioned how much the Port should get involved since it is a County responsibility.

Commissioner Erickson questioned the disbursement of PIF (Public Infrastructure Fund) money for the wastewater project and thought money had been awarded to the fire flow as well. He asked staff to follow up with the County on disbursement of the funds. (Mr. Crockett explained the PIF to the audience.)

Mr. Pivarnik stated repair work on the whalers in Quilcene need addressing within the next ten to twelve months. Mr. Crockett added our attorney informed him the Port would be allowed to hire day labor for a particular project versus hiring out a contractor. The estimated cost for the whaler project is \$40K.

Mr. Crockett added there are boat ramp grants available and the money can be used towards restrooms and parking, as well as the ramp. He said this would be about a two-year process. Commissioner Erickson would like to see a south county strategic plan be developed and brought back to the community in the spring, but the top priority now is to replace the whalers.

Commissioner Thompson invited Quilcene resident, JD Gallant to present his issue, who spoke about environmental issues that he believes are the result of the Coast Seafood expansion, and the studies he has been performing in the Hood Canal waters. He discussed

water clarity and increased nitrates in the water. He believes the crow population has decreased as well, all due to Coast Seafood's increased operations.

Quilcene resident and former Port Commissioner Herb Beck stated he has not seen any decrease in the birdlife in Quilcene. He explained when the tide is low and the bay is muddy, especially on these hot summer days, there is no marine plant growth and he attributes the increased turbidity to the many salmon spawning in the waters rather than Coast Seafood's operations.

Quilcene resident, Sandy Oen agreed with Mr. Beck's observations.

Discussion ensued on Mr. Gallant's studies and the environmental report on the impact of Coast Seafood's operations performed in 2012 by Plauche & Carr.

Mr. Crockett, added for the record, that he has spoken with Department of Ecology and there are no environmental issues with Coast Seafood.

Mr. Beck added to his concerns the poor condition of the floats at the marina; slip sizes; restroom improvements; boat ramp; parking issues. He stated the problem with receiving the PIF money for infrastructure is that it is hard for the community to come up with matching funds.

Mr. Oen discussed the need for an increase in the availability of larger slips. He noted the 18-21' boats that use the marina are mostly trailered boats, but during busy seasons, the smaller slips are still needed for them.

Kathleen Kler discussed a Fish & Wildlife meeting she just attended where the focus was sanitation along the rivers and the concerns to the public's health. The group is searching for entities to participate in funding restrooms and garbage disposal sites for anglers.

B. NMTA Boatyard Committee Meeting Update (55:40):

Mr. Crockett reported on the meeting he attended this past Wednesday, providing an update on the boatyards that are being sued by Smith & Lowney. Two boatyards recently received letters of their intent to sue. The Port of Port Townsend has been current with electronic reporting to DOE. Mr. Crockett explained he is going to ask DOE for a written acknowledgement of their receipt of the Port's engineer report. Mr. Crockett said they presented a Power Point presentation on the state of the boating industry in Washington, which he will forward on to the Commission once he receives it.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. September 25, 2013 Commission Meeting (1:02:00):

Mr. Crockett and Commissioner Tucker request the September 25, 2013 evening commission meeting change to a morning meeting at 10:00 AM as the two will be leaving early that afternoon for Vancouver to attend the WPPA Environmental Conference. All Commissioners agreed.

B. Approval of Warrants (1:03:19):

Commissioner Tucker read the warrants, as presented:

Warrant #051667 through #051691 in the amount of \$120,743.56 for Payroll and Benefits

Warrant #051692 through #051742 in the amount of \$80,891.52 for Accounts Payable

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve the warrants as presented.

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

VII. STAFF COMMENTS (1:04:00):

Mr. Crockett informed that the administrative staff would begin the move to the new administration building Monday.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (1:04:50):

Herb Beck discussed the Balch property purchased in years back by the Port and how the previous owners gave the Port a deal, allowing them a tax break.

Mr. Beck commented on how far the Port has come over the years since Mr. Crockett has been the Director. When he first started at the Port there was barely enough money to pay the bills. He gave kudos to the Executive Director and his "assistant director".

Peter Hanke stated for the record that Coast Seafood is very proactive with environmental compliance.

He then asked if any staff had heard results from last weekend's Wooden Boat Festival.

Mr. Crockett added to Mr. Hanke's comment on Coast Seafood. He stated that DOE has told him that Coast is a role model. Mr. Crockett spoke of Coast Seafood's history with the Port.

Dave Nuenschwander spoke to encourage the Commission and staff to do "serious market research" on the Quilcene marina along with receiving community input before making any plans.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (1:14:28):

Commissioner Thompson stated he heard a few complaints while working the Port's booth at the Wooden Boat Festival.

Commissioner Erickson said pursuant to the earlier workshop, he encourages public participation in the budget process.

Mr. Crockett added the draft budget would be posted on the Port's website when ready.

X. NEXT MEETING: Next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 10:00 AM in the Port Commission Building, 333 Benedict Street, Port Townsend, WA.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The regular session recessed into Executive Session at 2:17 PM to discuss real estate, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (b), no action, duration of ten minutes.

XII. RECONVENING & ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:

The meeting reconvened and adjourned at 2:27 PM there being no further business to come before the Commission.

ATTEST:

David H. Thompson, Secretary

Leif W. Erickson, President

Stephen R. Tucker, Vice President