

Port of Skamania County
Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
March 25, 2016,
Special Meeting 11:00 am

Call to Order: Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Attendance: Commissioners Gail Collins and Todd Kingston; Attorney Ken Woodrich (via telephone), Executive Director John McSherry, Finance Manager Randy Payne. Guests Melissa Still, Tom Gallant, Barb Selstad, Bruce Nissen (tenant), Carrie Nissen (tenant), Monica Masco, Steve Funk (tenant), Don Stevens (North Bonneville Mayor), Don Fisher and Ian Langdile (tenant), Philip Watness (*The Pioneer*).

The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the performance of a public employee.

Public Comment:

John McSherry: John said Julie Mayfield was uncomfortable about setting up this meeting because it was represented to her that the decision to hold the meeting was made in executive session and no decisions are to be made in executive session; she is concerned about retaliation. He said this meeting was not declared at the last March 22, 2016 meeting; John himself was unaware of it and the meeting was not set up in a transparent manor.

Monica Masco: Stated she is concerned that decisions are being made in executive sessions; actions should be taken outside of executive session.

Ken Woodrich: Stated no decisions are being made in executive session.

Don Stevens: Praised the work of John McSherry as the Port Executive Director and his staff and successes and noted the benefits to the community.

Tom Gallant: Seconded the comments of Don Stevens.

Don Fisher: Stated John McSherry is a great facilitator and he and his business would not be here without John's creativity; said John is exactly what Don Stevens said.

Bruce Nissen: Mentioned failures of other locations where he set out to locate his business; said John is an open communicator and his leadership is reflected in Port staff team.

Steve Funk: Said he respects John's ability to address issues and resolve problems; as a current tenant and a previous tenant with H&H EcoSystems he said John has always been very helpful.

Philip Watness: Stated executive sessions are not the norm so there is public concern; he said he is confused about why the Port's insurance company is being brought into executive session at a meeting about evaluating the performance of a public employee.

Commissioner Todd Kingston: Stated the need for the executive session was due to timelines.

Commissioner Gail Collins: Said the Commission is trying to educate itself.

Executive Session: Commissioner Collins called for an Executive Session with Commissioner Kingston and Ken Woodrich, from 11:25 am to 11:45 am for 20 minutes, and again from 11:45 am to 11:55 am for 10 minutes, per RCW 42.30.110(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public.

Commissioner Collins said no decisions were made.

Adjournment: The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at about 12:00 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Port Commissioners is April 12, 2016 at 3:00 pm at the Port office conference room: 212 SW Cascade Avenue, Stevenson, Washington.

APPROVED BY:

ABSTAIN

Commissioner Fran Breeding, Secretary (District 1)

Commissioner Gail Collins, President (District 2)

Commissioner Todd Kingston, President (District 3)

ATTEST:

Randy Payne, Finance Manager