

Port of Skamania County
Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
June 24, 2014, 3:00 pm

Call to Order: Commissioner Waters called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Attendance: Commissioners Tony Bolstad (via telephone, stepped down as President for this meeting), Gail Collins, Kevin Waters (acting President); John McSherry, Attorney Ken Woodrich, Auditor Monica Masco, Executive Assistant Julie Mayfield, Facilities Specialist Karl Wilkie, Finance Manager Randy Payne. Guests Paul Spencer (Wind River Biomass LLC), Philip Watness, Mary Repar, Don Stevens, Sandy Bacus, Joe Bacus, Tom Gallant, Rich Rush, Dave Prosser, Barbara Selstad, Lynn Richard, Jim Jordan.

Public Comment: Guests were allowed one minute to comment.

Sandy: In support of John McSherry; his past performance is outstanding.

Joe: He explained his professional history as an attorney in Washington DC many years, representing Republicans and Democrats in administrative, criminal, and civil matters—this administrative matter here is a tempest in a teapot—John probably shouldn't have written the email but it was his personal email. If that's the case, you run into the First Amendment. Be careful—it's just not worth it to pursue this, we could just go home and forget it.

Mary: She agrees with Joe—it's time to put John back to work. There have been many executive sessions, hopefully no decisions have been made; the public deserves to know what the problems are, if there are any problems. The Port needs to get back to the business of the Port; you need to make a final decision. First amendment right is very tough—we take it very seriously, you need to be very careful about how your employees are viewed under that right, not privilege.

Don: He's been here for the last couple of meetings and is concerned about this process. We are in the summer season—we have a window of time for marketing our vacant properties and we need to get John back to working on that in this season.

Tom G.: Has John had a performance review? If he has, he's sure they've been adequate—John is the man. You would be opening up to a horrendous lawsuit and losing the best guy the Port's ever had.

Barbara: People have rights through the First Amendment and everyone has a right to a personal life and a personal telephone and computer. This whole process is so unnecessary—John should be doing his job.

Dave P.: Dave has been a Port Commissioner in the past. John's done an outstanding job for this community. Dave said he's sitting before a kangaroo court and can't believe this is being made into such a big deal. John has done more as a Port Manager than anyone else in the past 50 years. This is just a personal vendetta against John—it is ridiculous.

Lynn: She has nothing against John and doesn't know him, but she's here to say change is good and it's not easy being a Port commissioner, and she's sure somebody else has been running this Port while he's been on leave and she's here to support those who volunteer their time.

Monica: She's been at these meetings, where there has been an executive session each time on this topic: May 27, June 5, June 10, June 19—she's concerned decisions are being made in executive session without motions being made afterward; in the draft minutes from June 19 it states John was reading from a list of issues the commission has with him, and she's concerned that the Port has not upheld the Open Public Meetings Act.

Public comment was closed at 3:11 pm.

Meetings and Seminars: Randy attended the WA Public Ports Association (WPPA) Finance Conference in Chelan.

Minutes Approval:

*---MOTION--- Commissioner Collins moved to approve the **June 5, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes, as corrected.** Commissioner Bolstad seconded; the motion carried.*

*---MOTION--- Commissioner Collins moved to approve the **June 19, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes, to evaluate the performance of a public employee.** Commissioner Bolstad seconded; the motion carried.*

Vouchers Approval:

*---MOTION--- Commissioner Collins moved to approve the **Pre-issued General Fund Vouchers numbered 15746 through 15753 in the amount of \$11,750.89 dated June 18, 2014.** Commissioner Bolstad seconded; the motion carried.*

*---MOTION--- Commissioner Collins moved to approve the **General Fund Vouchers numbered 15754 through 15772 in the amount of \$26,033.43 dated June 24, 2014.** Commissioner Bolstad seconded; the motion carried.*

Administrative Approvals:

Paul Spencer of Wind River Biomass LLC gave an update on his business funding efforts and said he'd jumped the gun as far as requesting storage space at Wind River Business Park (WRBP). He expects a decision on his grant funding application for design and engineering in mid July; if funding is successful, the engineering work will be complete by October or November, at which time he will need space.

US Cellular Lease/Wind River Business Park

The Port has continued working on the US Cellular lease. US Cellular is working toward finalizing all their permits, including compliance with the State Environmental Permit Act (SEPA) but their lease is not approved yet. They need to move forward without a lease, and would like approval from the Commission.

*---MOTION--- Commissioner Bolstad moved to **allow US Cellular to proceed with applying for Skamania County permits and SEPA prior to formal lease adoption.** Commissioner Collins seconded; the motion carried.*

Staff Reports:

Auditor's Report: presented by Monica Masco

May 31, 2014 Cash Balance is \$1,284,144.14.

Total revenue for May was \$137,025.99 and expenditures were \$102,398.72: Netting excess revenue over expenditures in the amount of \$34,627.27; year to date excess expenditures over revenue is \$36,605.45

Monica noted next meeting there will be a complete six months of 2014 financial reporting.

Unfinished Business/Director's Report: Presented by John McSherry

1. *Tenants update:* Randy reported **Last US Bag** (Processing Plant WRBP) would like to reduce their square footage to 5,000 square feet in August. The Port had met with the PUD and an energy audit was done. A solution would be to replace the blast furnace with infrared space heaters in the work areas. This would reduce their future energy demand fees. The PUD had such heaters they were going to surplus. Relocating to Stevenson may also be an option. **Sawtooth Technologies** reported they want to have a month-to-month lease, when their lease expires soon.
2. *Location of Vehicle Camping Fee Collection Box at East Point:* Julie will send Commissioner Bolstad a map for marking where the box should be placed.
3. *Stevenson Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Project:* John reported he talked to our Project Manager (Laura Moxham) for our ALEA grant application (aquatic land enhancement account). The technical part of the application is due July 11; there are about 26 applicants; our project is one of only two that encompasses both the goals of the ALEA program: public access and habitat restoration. We will present the project as a test run on July 15, when the Laura will be here. The Port and City of Stevenson need to update the Leavens Point agreement. The final presentation is August 7 in Olympia.
4. *Berthing Boats at Boat Launch:* The Columbia Gorge Racing Association (CGRA) needs overflow boat berthing for their One-Design event August 1 to 3. John noted this has been done before and at one time extra docks were brought in. He noted this as a cost-effective opportunity to introduce Skamania County and Stevenson Waterfront to event participants/visitors. Julie noted signage could be posted at the Boat Launch a week prior to the event to inform regular users of the upcoming access limitations.
5. *River Point Building Roof Replacement:* John reported the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) has received about 24 grant applications and that only about 20% of them will be funded. We received letters of support from Senators Murray and Cantwell, as well as Representative Beutler and two letters of interest from current tenants seeking to expand. EDA will review the applications July 15 to 18. Other funding ideas are: bank note, EDC loan, selling bonds, or a combination of these. John noted considering CERB (WA State Community Economic Revitalization Board) for funding, using loans for match—the time schedule is very tight though. Should we begin preparing the bid spec before knowing if we'll get the EDA funding? (plans and specs are part of phase 2)
6. *Vendor Permit—Carriage Ride Service:* Julie reported the city of Stevenson has permitted Eileen White's horse-drawn carriage ride business, **Crestrail Carriage Company**. She will transport passengers from the tour boats to her shop Lizette Boutique. Ken directed that we need to use our vendor permit process since she will be staging partly on Port property.

New Business: None.

Executive Session: Commissioner Waters called for an Executive Session from 4:02 pm to 4:12 pm 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.

The Commission said they made no decisions.

*---MOTION--- Commissioner Collins moved to **terminate Administrative Leave for John McSherry and bring him back to work as Executive Director.** Commissioner Bolstad seconded; the motion carried.*

Adjournment: Commissioner Waters, acting Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.

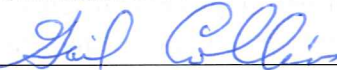
Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Port Commissioners is July 8, 2014, 3:00 pm, at the Port office conference room: 212 SW Cascade Avenue, Stevenson, Washington.

APPROVED BY:



Commissioner Tony Bolstad, President (District 1)

Commissioner Kevin Waters, Vice-President (District 3)



Commissioner Gail Collins, Secretary (District 2)

ATTEST:



Julie Mayfield, Executive Assistant