PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

3508 Galvin Road · Centralia, WA 98531-9002
Phone 360-736-3527 · Fax 360-330-5666
www.portofcentralia.com

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the
PORT OF CENTRALIA
December 1, 2021
Port of Centralia Administrative Office & Via Teleconference
3:00 PM

Attendees: Commissioners: Julie Shaffley, Peter Lahmann, Kyle Markstrom
Executive Director: Kyle Heaton
Public: Jan Banevich; Alicia Fox, Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce; Bob Jackins; Lindy Waring; and Brian Dow
Teleconference: One unknown caller

1) **Call Meeting to Order/Introductions:** Commissioner Shaffley called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2) **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve the December 1, 2021, agenda as submitted. Commissioner Markstrom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Markstrom made a motion to approve the November 17, 2021, public hearing and regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lahmann stated that he was concerned about the executive session of the previous meeting and said that he thought the Commissioners were in conflict. He cited RCW 42.30.110(g) and said that they had reconvened without a motion and adjourned after two minutes, so he thought they hadn't done the motion justice. In the RCW, he said that discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions shall occur in a meeting open to the public and he just wanted to bring that concern up. Commissioner Shaffley responded that after a motion is seconded, she always asks if there is any discussion or questions, and there wasn't any at the time, so she called it for a vote.

Commissioner Lahmann said that he would also like to bring up in the agenda for that meeting there was no pre-notice that salary matters were going to be discussed. He said that he would have liked to have some notice so that he could have studied it himself. Commissioner Shaffley replied that when she had called for the approval of the agenda, she had made a motion to add the executive session to discuss personnel matters. She said that the motion was seconded. Commissioner Lahmann agreed that it was but there was no discussion of wages. He said that he was just bringing it up as a point for the future so that they know when they talk about wages, they need to do that in open public session. Kyle Heaton replied that they had. Commissioner Shaffley added that they had talked about wages with the discussion in executive session. Commissioner Lahmann stated that they were not to do that in executive session. Commissioner Shaffley replied that it was under personnel matters.

Commissioner Lahmann agreed for personnel matters and said that he did not want to make a big stink out about it, but to look at it for the future.

4) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Markstrom made a motion to approve warrants 22182 through 22208 with an aggregate amount of $370,768.63. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) **New Business:**

a) **Executive Director Report:** Kyle Heaton reported that Port had received bids for the 1920 Gallagher Road demolition project and had awarded the contract. He said that all of the asbestos has been abated and the project was currently on hold for the 10-day waiting period with the Southwest Clean Air Agency. After the demolition permit is approved the contractor will get to work. He said that the project will take approximately a week to complete and then the property will be finished. Commissioner Markstrom thanked Port staff for moving the project along quickly and the way they are supposed to. Commissioner Shaffley agreed.

Kyle Heaton stated that the Port has received the final approval on the NEPA for Centralia Station. He said that the Port also received the final approval on the deeds that would be conveyed. He said that he spoke with the Washington State Department of Transportation and it has been circulated to their head of the real estate department for signature, after which it will be sent to the Federal Highway Administration. The Port expects to receive something back from the FHWA the first week in January. Commissioner Shaffley remarked that there was a lot of background commotion and asked Kyle Heaton to repeat the last portion of his report. Kyle Heaton repeated his earlier statement.

b) **Resolution No. 2021-10:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-10 Authorizing the Expenditures of Funds by Cash Warrant Prior to Commission Approval Claims. Commissioner Markstrom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kyle Heaton said that it was a standard housekeeping resolution that is done every year, the basis of which ensures the Port is able to pay utility bills, insurance, payroll, and other items in the event the Commission is unable to meet for a period of time. He said that it came into play during COVID and was worthwhile. Amy Graber has updated the resolution for current insurance and utility rates and payroll amounts.

c) **Resolution No. 2021-11:** Commissioner Markstrom made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-11 Appointing Commission Officers for the Year 2022. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried. The officers for the year 2022 are as follows: Commissioner Markstrom, President; Commissioner Lahmann, Vice President; and Commissioner Shaffley, Secretary/Treasurer.

d) **Committee Reports:** Commissioner Markstrom reported that he attended the Chamber's Choose Local Black Friday event and wanted to thank UNFI for their massive donation to that event. He said that it was great to see them making a very solid effort to make a positive impact in our community.

Commissioner Lahmann reported that he had attended a couple of Lewis County Board of County Commissioner meetings, including the budget workshop and legislative update, and the Centralia City Council meeting. He also apologized because he missed letting Commissioner Markstrom know that the Washington Public Ports Association's meeting was currently ongoing

and they have training for new Commissioners. Commissioner Markstrom replied that he had attended.

Commissioner Shaffley said that she also wanted to thank UNFI for their generous donation of 300 organic turkeys and 28 pallets of food. She announced that on December 2, 2021, there was going to be a housing policy summit from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Centralia College and on Zoom. She said that the Lewis Economic Development Council will be hosting a Regional Economic Forecast and Innovation Expo at Great Wolf Lodge, also on December 2, 2021, from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. She said that the Expo is with the regional EDCs and will go over a lot of the different challenges that are happening in the area. She said that she believed registration for it begins before 9:00 am.

Commissioner Shaffley also said that she had questions for Kyle Heaton regarding redistricting in the census. She asked him if there is anything that they need to be aware of with the information that is coming out. Kyle Heaton replied that the Port had received word from the Washington State Redistricting Commission just after the last meeting. He read their statement: "Last night after substantial work marked by mutual respect and dedication to the important task, four voting members of this State Redistricting Commission were unable to adopt a redistricting plan by the midnight deadline. The late release of the 2020 census data combined with technical challenges hampered the Commission's work considerably. Pursuant to RCW 44.05.100 the Supreme Court now has jurisdiction for a districting plan. Commissioners have every faith that Supreme Court will draw maps that are fair and worthy of the people of Washington." He said that what that means for the Port is that they have provided a revised timeline where the Port does not have to adopt a redistricting plan until November 15, 2022. The Supreme Court will hear the arguments and will not likely rule on anything until sometime around the May-June 2022 timeframe. Once the congressional district is set, the legislative district will be set behind that and the Supreme Court will address that as well. Once those are set, it will be passed down to the county auditors so they can finish their work. He said that the Lewis County Auditor has been great and has done as much work as they can possibly do before that is released. He suspects that once the State is done with their work, the County will be done with their work in short order so the Port will meet that deadline without any real trouble.

Commissioner Shaffley asked Kyle Heaton how he thought this is going to affect the 2022 election with the candidates and that type of thing. Kyle Heaton replied that he could only speak for the Port of Centralia and the deadline for local governments holding elections in 2023, which is the Port's next election, to complete redistricting plans and transmit them to county auditors is November 15, 2022. He said that it is a really good question for those entities that have people up for election next year. He said that they are probably sweating a lot more than the Port is and imagines they will be hustling really hard.

6) **Good of the Order/Public Comment:** Alicia Fox with the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce thanked the Commissioners for all of the work that they have done for UNFI. She said without all of that difficult work and getting the facility up and going, a business like that would not be in the community. She confirmed that they delivered 28 pallets of food and the turkeys. She said that the Chamber gave 40 turkeys to God's Portion and, of the remaining pallets, three pallets to the food bank and two pallets of Gatorade and popsicles to the Boys and Girls Club, so all of the food has been distributed to people in the community. She reported that they had their 250-bag giveaway and that it was a great event. She thanked the Port for helping out with it and especially UNFI for

their large donation. She said that the Santa Parade coming up that weekend and a Chamber Forum the following week on the local housing market, inventory, sales, and those kinds of things for the end-of-year warp-up. She also said that the next Business After Hours will be an ugly sweater event at Althauser Rayan Abbarno supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Brian Dow, of Centralia, thanked Commissioner Shaffley for meeting with some citizens to answer some questions. He appreciated her taking time out of her day to do that. He said that at the previous Commissioner meeting, between executive session and regular session, there was a disturbance in the hallway and he was right next to it. He said that he was not involved with it, but he was right next to it and saw and heard it. He said that Jan Banevich got verbally accosted, in his opinion, and he wanted it on record. He thought it was inappropriate. He said the volume then got up a little bit higher and he wasn't sure what the accusations were, but as they were going to start heading out Kyle Heaton came out. Commissioner Shaffley apologized for interrupting, but said that whatever happened did so outside of Port business in a public area and doesn't need to be on public record because it happened outside of a Port meeting. Brian Dow replied that he thought maybe the Port Commissioners thought something else had happened from what he saw. Commissioner Shaffley said that it was outside in the lobby so it had nothing to do with the Port at that time. Brian Dow replied that at that time Jan Banevich was asked to leave. Commissioner Shaffley said again that it had nothing to do with the Port meeting at that time. Brian Dow said that Kyle Heaton came out. Commissioner Shaffley said that it was too loud and the Commissioners couldn't hear. Brian Dow agreed that it was loud.

7) **Adjourn:** Commissioner Markstrom made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:21 p.m. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER