PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

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**Minutes**
**Regular Meeting of the**
**PORT OF CENTRALIA**
**December 18, 2024**
**Port of Centralia Administrative Office & Via Teleconference**
**3:00 PM**

Attendees: Commissioners: Kyle Markstrom, Julie Shaffley, and Peter Lahmann
Executive Director: Kyle Heaton
Staff: Amy Graber, Director of Finance & Administration
Press: Owen Sexton, The Chronicle
Public: Gary Odegaard; David Nunn; Jan Banevich; Cynthia Mudge; and Kurt Gustafson
Teleconference: Four unknown callers

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

2) **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve the December 18, 2024, agenda as submitted. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3) **Good of the Order/Public Comment:** Commissioner Markstrom opened the meeting to public comment and stated the rules regarding public comment.

   Jan Banevich, of Centralia, commented on Kyle Heaton's remarks at the previous meeting regarding a third-party ethics complaint and social media page.

   Cynthia Mudge, executive director of the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce, announced several upcoming Chamber events.

4) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve the December 4, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve warrants 24101 through 24126 with an aggregate amount of $64,928.48. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6) **New Business:**

   a) **Small Works Project #24-17 Eastside Parcels Grading – Park 3 – Pay Estimate #1:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve Pay Estimate #1 in the amount of $99,351.93 to Sterling Breen Crushing for Small Works Project #24-17 Eastside Parcels Grading – Park 3. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Markstrom opened the agenda item for public comment. There was no public comment made.

b) **I-5/Mellen Street Connector Project – Stage 2 – Project Acceptance:** Kyle Heaton reported that the agenda item would need to be tabled until the next meeting.

c) **Executive Director Report:** Kyle Heaton gave a brief report on the ongoing discussions between Lewis County and the City of Centralia regarding the management of Urban Growth Areas. He also gave a brief overview of ongoing Port projects.

d) **Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Shaffley gave a review of the Port's progress in 2024.

Commissioner Lahmann reported that he attended a Centralia City Council meeting and a Lewis County Board of County Commissioners meeting. He admitted to using his personal email for Port business and for advertising Port political campaigns on Port property, which he discussed with the Public Disclosure Commission. He added that earlier in the year he had called out type 3 barricades that were used in the Centralia Station project and that his qualifications as a State-issued traffic controller supervisor regarding the subject had been called out and Commissioner Shaffley had a good response at the time, but he still has concerns. Commissioner Markstrom replied that as elected officials, it is not the Commissioners' role to weigh-in on day-to-day operations despite expertise. Commissioner Lahmann said that it is the Commissioners' role to make sure things are done properly and that it was a liability. Commissioner Markstrom replied that Port counsel had reviewed it and that Commissioner Lahmann was making it a liability by saying it was a liability. Kyle Heaton said that he had taken Commissioner Lahmann's concerns into consideration and sent it to the Port's licensed engineer who reviewed it and said that it was not an issue. He reviewed it with Port counsel, who did not believe it was an issue, and neither the City Engineer nor the Washington State Department of Transportation Engineer's had an issue with it. Commissioner Shaffley added that the report she gave regarding Commissioner Lahmann's concerns at the time was written by the Port's engineer, as she is not qualified to weigh in on the subject.

Commissioner Markstrom stated that the next regularly scheduled Port meeting will fall on January 1, 2025, and he proposed cancelling the meeting and resuming at the following regularly scheduled meeting on January 15, 2025.

7) **Adjourn:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:27 p.m. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**COMMISSIONER** **COMMISSIONER**