PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

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Minutes
Regular Meeting of the
PORT OF CENTRALIA
February 2, 2022
Port of Centralia Administrative Office & Via Teleconference
3:00 PM

Attendees: Commissioners: Kyle Markstrom, Julie Shaffley
Executive Director: Kyle Heaton
Press: Chad Taylor, The Chronicle, via teleconference; Susan Delaire, Business to Business, via teleconference
Public: Bob Jackins; Adam Warren, Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce; Brian Dow, and Jan Banevich
Teleconference: One unknown caller
Absent: Commissioner Peter Lahmann, absence excused

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 February 2, 2022, agenda as submitted. Commissioner Markstrom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve the January 5, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Markstrom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve warrants 22260 through 22300 with an aggregate amount of $134,296.73. Commissioner Markstrom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

   Commissioner Markstrom asked Kyle Heaton to provide information on the Safecover Roofing expense. Kyle Heaton replied that it was for 3802 Galvin Road. He said that it was a 30-year-old building that needs to have its gutters replaced and the roof was leaking at the edges. He said that with the torrential rain in early January almost every pre-engineered building is going to leak to varying degrees. The roof of the building has been repaired and the gutters will be bid out in the spring.

5) **New Business:**

   a) **Executive Director Report:** Kyle Heaton reported that for Centralia Station, the Washington State Department of Transportation has submitted everything to the Federal Highway Administration and they are waiting on approval. He said the right-of-way has been dedicated and recorded. Thanks to Commissioner Markstrom, Jaime Hererra Beutler's office is looking into it and trying to help the Port with the FHWA as well.

   Kyle also said that the Port's lobbyists are in legislature working on updating budget numbers. With every year that the project has dragged on the cost has gone up. He said that hopefully it

will be bid this year and they are asking for an additional $1.7 million. He said that Representative Orcutt is putting the project forward as is Senator Braun on the Senate side, so hopefully as the Legislature comes on there will be good news for the Port.

Kyle stated that the flooding came and went in Park I and Centralia Station where everything did well and performed as designed. He said that there were some minor issues in Park II. He said that it has been about 19 years since it was built, so the drainage is due for some maintenance. There is considerable vegetation and some culverts that need some work. He said that the Port is working with Sierra Pacific and Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad and that likely this summer there will be some maintenance work.

Commissioner Markstrom said that he knows that when there are events like that it creates extra work for staff. He said that he appreciates that the maintenance crew is busy and looking out for those kinds of things. Kyle Heaton replied that they worked very hard on it. He said that the water levels raised to a point where the catchbasins on Kuper Road started to geyser and fill Kuper Road up and then run into Sierra Pacific. He stated that there is ample capacity in the ditch and that it was a matter of clogged culverts that need maintenance.

Kyle reported that Fergerson Schmidt has waived contingencies off North Park Drive. They are waiting on a boundary line adjustment to be finished and then they will be submitting a site plan and moving toward closing.

Kyle said that one of the issues that the Port has been dealing with considerably is truck and RV parking. He said that flooding tends to push people out of where they may have been parking, but also the City of Olympia has cracked down heavily on their homeless influx, so Centralia is seeing a tremendous influx. Centralia Police Department has been working with the Port to keep them off. He said that the City of Centralia posted no parking in city limits/heavy vehicles signs on Galvin Road and the Port will request that they post similar signs on Steelhammer Lane and Mahoney Drive as well. Those roads were not designed for on-street parking, which is why they are the width that they are. He said that the City is working with the Port and is facing the same issue all over town. He said that there is a man in a school bus that is very skilled and moves every six hours so that he is legal. But it is creating congestion problems for tenants and the Port is receiving complaints. The Port has installed no parking signs on Kuper Road as well to keep semis off of it.

b) **Committee Reports:** Commissioner Shaffley reported that she attended the Economic Alliance board meeting. She said that there are lots of things coming to the community and it was very uplifting and sounds exciting.

Commissioner Markstrom reported that he attended the WPPA maritime legislative update via Zoom. He said that it was mostly maritime port-related items but there was some interesting information. He said that Senator Braun spoke and that he appreciates the Senator's support of the Port and all the others in the state. He said there were also speakers discussing the proposed Clean Fuel Standard, which he thought was interesting. He encouraged anyone who is not familiar with that to read up on it and educate themselves on something that is going to impact everyone. Commissioner Markstrom also said that he knew a lot of people were out helping, volunteering, and putting in extra hours during the flooding to serve the community. He said that

it was really encouraging to see everyone come together over the flood and it made him proud to live in this community.

Commissioner Shaffley agreed and said that she was really impressed with the community effort. She also said that she was very happy to see the aerial views of Park 3 and that the retention pond was doing what it is supposed to do, so that was very helpful.

6) **Good of the Order/Public Comment:** Jan Banevich, of Centralia, said that she would like to make a statement on behalf of herself as a Citizen for Open and Honest Government. At the November 17, 2021, meeting, the Commission president called for an executive session for the purpose of "personnel matters." When the Commissioners reconvened the regular meeting, two Commissioners voted to give Director Heaton a substantial 41% salary increase without the public's prior knowledge. In reference to RCW 42.30.110(2), the MRSC states that simply declaring personnel matters as a purpose for an executive session is not sufficient and is not an authorized purpose for holding an executive session. Therefore, the executive session was a violation of the law and the vote to increase Director Heaton's salary is null and void. As they have sent this information onto others and abuse for review, they ask that the Commissioners vet Director Heaton's salary to what it was prior to the illegal vote and refrain from attempting again to increase his salary to more than that of the governor of their state.

   Brian Dow, of Centralia, again brought up the issue of trying to retain minutes and meeting records for longer on the Port's website. He said that after a few meetings they go away. Commissioner Markstrom replied that if he looks it has been changed. He said that the last time Brian Dow brought the issue up he worked with Port staff to rectify it. Brian Dow asked Commissioner Markstrom if he had mentioned it at the last meeting. Commissioner Markstrom said that he doesn't know that he ever did, but all of the meeting minutes from the time it was addressed forward are on the website. Brian Dow asked if they were going to stay there. Commissioner Markstrom said that they were. Brian Down said that was great and thanked Commissioner Markstrom.

7) **Adjourn:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:16 p.m. Commissioner Markstrom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER **COMMISSIONER**