PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

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Minutes
Regular Meeting of the
PORT OF CENTRALIA
July 19, 2023
Port of Centralia Administrative Office & Via Teleconference
3:00 PM

Attendees: Commissioners: Kyle Markstrom, Julie Shaffley, and Peter Lahmann
Executive Director: Kyle Heaton
Counsel: Ray Liaw, Van Ness Feldman (via teleconference)
Press: Owen Sexton, The Chronicle
Public: David Nunn; Gary Odegaard; Jan Banevich; Paul Crowner; Lindy Waring; Coralee Taylor; Chad Taylor; Bill Ralph; Bob Jackins; Brian Dow; and Jared Sturdevant
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 Lahmann made a motion to approve the July 19, 2023, agenda as submitted. Commissioner Shaffley 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.

   Paul Crowner, of Centralia, commented on editorials written by The Chronicle's publisher Chad Taylor. He said that since the formal inquiry found no wrongdoing, he felt it would behoove the Port's executive director and the whistleblower to issue an apology to the Port's Commissioners as a whole for raising issues that cause fractures in the community trust in the Port and that have sullied the Port's reputation.

   Bill Ralph, of Centralia, commented on a public records request that he made a couple of years ago. He said that he never received a response to his request, but it was regarding the expenses surrounding the Centralia Station project. He stated that he was going to be putting in a new public records request for updated expenses the Port has put out on that project so far.

   Brian Dow, of Centralia, asked when the Commissioners rotate their positions and how often it happens, and he thought that everyone should have a chance to have that seat and he would appreciate the Port strongly thinking about that.

   Jan Banevich, of Centralia, commented that she has realized that by definition she is a whistleblower for providing information about the Port of Centralia to the public via her Facebook group. She said that she has been and continues to be harassed by the Port of Centralia and by certain friends of the Port in retaliation for questioning Port activities and informing the

public of information that they as taxpayers have the right to know. She believes she has been singled out by the Port via its attorney Ray Liaw, who falsely accused her of trespassing and threatened her, even though according to Washington State and local law enforcement, she was not trespassing. She said that Commissioner Lahmann was exonerated, the Port lost, now that is it and it is time to move on. Commissioner Markstrom stated that it is extremely important that if anybody ever feels that they are being harassed, intimidated, or otherwise, they should contact the proper authorities and have it investigated.

4) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve the July 5, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve warrants 23224 through 23247 with an aggregate amount of $127,577.91. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion.

6) **New Business:**

a) **Executive Director Report:** Kyle Heaton gave an update on Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Mellen Street Connector project. Kyle Heaton reported that WinCo has submitted its detailed site plan to the Port and its staff and attorneys have reviewed and approved it. The detailed site plan has been transmitted to the City of Centralia. Commissioner Markstrom thanked Kyle Heaton for the update on WinCo and stated that it was exciting WinCo had submitted the detailed site plan.

b) **Mellen Street Connector Stage 1 – Pay Estimate #7:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve Pay Estimate #7 with Midway Underground in the amount of $683,820.42 for the Mellen Street Connector Stage 1 project. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried. Commissioner Markstrom opened the agenda item for public comment. There was no public comment made.

c) **Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Shaffley reported that she attended the Centralia City Council meeting and the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce board meeting. She gave an update on the Seattle to Portland bike event and announced upcoming Chamber events.

Commissioner Lahmann reported that he had attended the Centralia City Council meeting and the Board of County Commissioners meeting. He said that he would like to make an apology for any discomfort that has happened to Amy Graber. He said that she is an excellent employee, and she has done an excellent job for the Port. He added that if anyone has a problem with her to talk to one of the Commissioners or the executive director.

Commissioner Markstrom stated that he did not have anything to report.

7) **Adjourn:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER

8-2-23
COMMISSIONER