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
June 7, 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
Press: Owen Sexton, The Chronicle
Public: David Nunn; Gary Odegaard; Jan Banèvich; Bob Jackins; Rick Schnatterly; Joe Gaylor; Brian Dow; Chad Taylor; and Paul Crowner
Teleconference: Five 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 June 7, 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.

   Gary Odegaard, of Centralia, said that he had a compliment and he had tried to compliment the director once but he had said that he did not want to talk to him. He thanked Commissioner Markstrom for responding to his two questions.

   Jan Banevich, of Centralia, wondered how long the ridiculously petty and apparently politically motivated investigation into Commissioner Lahmann is going to continue. She wondered how much taxpayer money the Port was spending on it and was sure the Port could find better uses for their money. She had never heard of someone being investigated for doing something good for veterans by helping them find gainful employment with livable wages and apprenticeships are a good way to do that. She said that even though Commissioner Lahmann had retired from his lifelong career in construction, he took on the job at Fort Lewis to help veterans while the person in that position is deployed. She said that when asked to help out, no matter if it is volunteering to pick up litter along the streets, cleaning and repairing the Veterans' Memorial, or organizing a parade, Commissioner Lahmann is first to show up. She added he was nominated Volunteer of the Year. She asked why Commissioner Markstrom, Commissioner Shaffley, and Executive Director Kyle Heaton do not want to support veterans and apprenticeship programs in any way they can, but then they do not like Commissioner Lahmann looking out for their best interests either. She said that maybe the investigation has ended by finding nothing and that is why they are not hearing any more about it. She said that she supports the veterans and she is just one of many.

Bob Jackins, of Chehalis, asked what the taxpayers are paying for the Department of Veterans Affairs' investigation into Commissioner Lahmann. He said that as far as who supports veterans, Kyle Heaton is a veteran and so is his child. He asked if Peter Lahmann was a veteran and said that they have supported veterans and been a part of veterans all of their lives. He suggested that they come out with something like that. He said that they talk about free speech, yet they have a website that anybody who disagrees or makes a disparaging remark is blocked from seeing anything and it does not even appear. He said to maybe look at the other side of things a little bit before they do this.

Paul Crowner, of Centralia, said that the last couple of meetings he has had the pleasure of listening online and if the phone is at the end of the table it is difficult to hear Commissioner Shaffley or those providing public comment. He asked if the phone could be moved to the center of the table to hear Commissioner Shaffley better.

4) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve the May 24, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve warrants 23138 through 23175 with an aggregate amount of $1,125,919.90. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6) **New Business:**

a) **Executive Director Report:** Kyle Heaton reported on ongoing landscape maintenance projects. He said the Port is aware of the SEPA that has been issued on the Skookumchuck Commerce Center by Panattoni Development and the Port's planners are reviewing the SEPA to prepare comment, particularly regarding traffic on the Harrison Avenue/Reynolds Road and Harrison Avenue/Johnson Road intersections. He gave an update on the I-5 Mellen Street Connector project Stages 1 and 2.

Kyle Heaton presented the Commissioners with the 2022 Financial Statements and gave an overview of the results.

b) **Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Shaffley stated that she had nothing to report.

Commissioner Lahmann said that he was contacted regarding a tree in the Kuper Road right-of-way that is interfering with visibility and asked if that could be taken care of. Kyle Heaton replied that the tree was owned by Kaufman Brothers and there are no trees in the Port's Kuper Road right-of-way. Commissioner Lahmann said that he was bringing up safety issues because it is the Port's road. He asked where the crusher went from the I-5 Mellen Street Connector site when there is still concrete remaining to be removed. Kyle Heaton replied that was not the Port's concern and the Port is paying a lump sum to remove the concrete no matter the method. Commissioner Lahmann asked how the ethics violation was coming along. Ray Liaw responded that there was an agenda item for executive session.

Commissioner Markstrom said that he has an upcoming .09 Committee meeting. He said that the Washington Department of Transportation has a survey open online regarding the North Lewis County Industrial Access transportation study and there is a stakeholders meeting on June 22, 2023.

7) **Adjourn to Executive Session:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to adjourn the meeting to executive session to discuss complaints against a public official pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(f) and to discuss the potential purchase of real estate pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) at 3:15 p.m. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried. Commissioner Markstrom stated that executive session should last approximately thirty minutes with decisions likely.

8) **Reconvene:** Commissioner Markstrom reconvened the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

9) **Amendment of Agenda:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to amend the June 7, 2023, agenda to include the consideration of a Purchase and Sale Agreement for 1106 Alder Street, Centralia, Washington. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10) **Property Purchase – 1106 Alder Street:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve the Purchase & Sale Agreement with Jesus Soto and Gabriella Orozco for 1106 Alder Street in the amount of $400,000. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

11) **Adjourn:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:47 p.m. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER **COMMISSIONER**