PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

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Minutes
Regular Meeting of the
PORT OF CENTRALIA
March 20, 2024
Port of Centralia Administrative Office & Via Teleconference
3:00 PM

Attendees: Commissioners: Kyle Markstrom; Peter Lahmann; and Julie Shaffley
Port Staff: Kyle Heaton, Executive Director; Amy Graber, Director of Finance
Press: Owen Sexton, The Chronicle
Public: Gary Odegaard; Jan Banevich; Cynthia Mudge; Eric Sonnenberg; Joyce Hoerling; and Bob Jackins
Teleconference: 6 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 March 20, 2024, 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, stated that after the last meeting concluded two Commissioners, the Executive Director, and the Port's attorney were in the conference room with the door shut, and he thought that executive session should have been announced. He also commented on using Zoom for Port meetings.

   Jan Banevich, of Centralia, commented on the conference room door being shut after the last meeting concluded and on the traffic regarding Centralia Station.

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

   Commissioner Markstrom addressed the assertions that there was a potential meeting that took place after the last regular meeting. He said that there was not an executive session and just because a door was closed does not constitute that a meeting took place. He added that the Lewis County Commissioners have offices in a shared hallway and are in the same building for eight hours per day for five days a week. He stated that being in the same building together does not constitute breaking the law.

4) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve the March 6, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Markstrom seconded the motion. The motion carried. Commissioner Lahmann abstained from voting because he did not attend the meeting.

5) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve warrants 23645 through 23668 with an aggregate amount of $161,031.93. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6) **New Business:**

   a) **Executive Director Report:** Kyle Heaton gave an update on Port maintenance and on the I-5/Mellen Street Connector project as both Stages 1 and 2 approach closing out. He stated that the Port is preparing to go to bid for a grading plan that was previously looked at winter 2023 but was prohibited by the weather. He also gave a brief overview of updates from the last Legislative session.

   b) **Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Shaffley reported that she had attended the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce Board meeting and a Centralia City Council meeting. She encouraged community participation.

   Commissioner Lahmann reported that he attended a Centralia City Council meeting and the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners meeting. He also attended a fundraiser for the senior center and announced several upcoming community events.

   Commissioner Markstrom reported that he attended the fundraiser for Centralia youth sports. He also announced that the Legislature has allocated $52 million for infrastructure projects in Centralia.

   Commissioner Lahmann stated that he is going to have a meeting with a staff member for Representative Gluesenkamp Perez and asked if the Port has anything that he would like to included in that meeting. Commissioner Markstrom replied that he and Kyle Heaton had a meeting with the representative a few months prior.

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

COMMISSIONER **COMMISSIONER**