PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

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Minutes
Public Hearing of the
PORT OF CENTRALIA
November 20, 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; Brian Dow; Paul Crowner; Juanita McNoughton; and Cynthia Mudge
Teleconference: Five unknown callers

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

2) **Public Hearing – 2025 Budget:** Commissioner Markstrom adjourned the regular meeting to the public hearing at 3:00 p.m.

   a) Review of 2025 Budget: Kyle Heaton gave an overview of the proposed final 2025 budget.

   Commissioner Shaffley asked Amy Graber for additional information on the 1% levy that was in the proposed budget. Amy Graber replied that if the Port decides to not take the 1% that is allowed by law, it can be banked for future use and explained levy banking. Commissioner Lahmann asked if the difference between the preliminary and final non-operating revenues was a proposed land sale. Amy Graber replied that a land sale was moved from 2024 to 2025.

   b) Public Testimony: Commissioner Markstrom stated the rules for public testimony for the public hearing.

   Jan Banevich, of Centralia, commented that she could not comment on the budget due to lack of details.

   Paul Crowner, of Centralia, commented that the budget figures could be more precise to the penny.

   c) Adjourn: Commissioner Markstrom adjourned the public hearing to the regular meeting at 3:10 p.m.

3) **Reconvene:** Commissioner Markstrom reconvened the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

4) **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve the November 20, 2024, agenda as submitted. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) **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 a Facebook page and citizen ethics complaint.

   Paul Crowner, of Centralia, commented on his service on the Lewis County citizen budget committee and suggested the Port implement a similar committee.

   Juanita McNoughton introduced herself as a business solutions navigator for the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce.

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

6) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve the October 16, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

7) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve warrants 24034 through 24078 with an aggregate amount of $161,733.19. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8) **New Business:**

   a) **Resolution No. 2024-05:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-05 Adopting the Final Budget and Setting the Property Tax Levy for 2025. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion.

      Commissioner Lahmann had concerns about details on the budget the way it is presented. Commissioner Shaffley thanked Amy Graber for her hard work on the budget. Commissioner Markstrom appreciated Port staff for their work on the budget and for answering Commissioner Lahmann's previous questions regarding the budget.

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

      Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-05 Adopting the Final Budget and Setting the Property Tax Levy for 2025. Commissioner Markstrom seconded the motion. Commissioner Lahmann opposed the motion. The motion carried.

   b) **Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Shaffley said that with Thanksgiving approaching she would like to thank Port staff for their hard work on the budget and for being good stewards of the taxpayers' money. She is also thankful for the jobs and opportunities the Port has brought to the community over the years.

      Commissioner Lahmann asked for the outcome on the irrigation damage reimbursement. Kyle Heaton replied that the situation will be addressed with the new City manager. Commissioner Lahmann asked for a copy of the plans for the Harrison Avenue/Sandra Avenue interchange. Kyle Heaton replied that there were not any plans for the interchange and Lewis County's

preliminary design for the intersection are currently under revision. Commissioner Lahmann stated that he would like to have a strategic plan meeting. He said that the budget looks good and that it is probably just fine, but that he would like to know more details. Commissioner Lahmann added that the annual employee review was not on the agenda. He also asked if any of the Commissioners were attending the Washington Public Ports Association's annual meeting. Commissioner Markstrom replied that he did not believe any of the Commissioners would be attending and commented that he thinks they are tailored to the larger ports, but he will keep an eye on the agenda in case anything pertinent to the Port will be addressed.

Commissioner Markstrom said that he appreciated Port staff and the community members who attended the meeting and gave comments.

9) **Adjourn:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:29 p.m. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER **COMMISSIONER**