PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

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Minutes
Regular Meeting of the
PORT OF CENTRALIA
October 2, 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
Public: Gary Odegaard; David Nunn; Jan Banevich; Lindy Waring; Cynthia Mudge; and Brian Dow
Teleconference: 8 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 Shaffley made a motion to approve the October 2, 2024, agenda as submitted. Commissioner Lahmann 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.

   Jan Banevich, of Centralia, commented on the Port of Centralia 2.0 Facebook page and a public records request that was submitted.

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

   Gary Odegaard, of Centralia, commented on the new Webex video system and providing public comment.

4) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve the September 18, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve warrants 23988 through 24005 with an aggregate amount of $62,651.37. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6) **New Business:**

   a) **Executive Director Report:** Commissioner Markstrom announced that there was an issue with the meeting audio and apologized to remote audience members for the technical issue.

Kyle Heaton reported that the City of Centralia is considering adopting a business and occupation tax. Commissioner Shaffley stated that the Economic Alliance of Lewis County board was discussing the tax and, as a representative of the Port, she was not in favor of the tax because adding another tax would make Centralia lose its competitive edge for recruiting businesses. Commissioner Markstrom added it would put the Port at a disadvantage because not many cities in the state have a local B&O tax.

Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to direct staff to write a letter to the City of Centralia in opposition of the proposed business and occupation tax. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Markstrom opened the agenda item for public comment.

Brian Dow, of Centralia, commented that the City could raise the same amount of money through property taxes instead of introducing a new tax.

Kyle Heaton reported that Beacon has finished their SEPA. He also gave an update on ongoing Port projects.

b) **Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Shaffley reported that she attended an Economic Alliance of Lewis County board meeting.

Commissioner Lahmann had nothing to report.

Commissioner Markstrom reported that he attended the candidate debate at Centralia College.

7) **Adjourn:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 p.m. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER **COMMISSIONER**