PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

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**Minutes**
**Regular Meeting of the**
**PORT OF CENTRALIA**
**October 5, 2022**
**Port of Centralia Administrative Office & Via Teleconference**
**3:00 PM**

Attendees: Commissioners: Kyle Markstrom, Peter Lahmann; Julie Shaffley (via teleconference)
Executive Director: Kyle Heaton
Port Counsel: Ray Liaw, Van Ness Feldman
Public: Cynthia Mudge, Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce; Gary Odegaard; David Nunn; Bob Jackins; Scott Tennant; Brian Dow; Paul Crowner; and Jan Banevich
Teleconference: Four unknown callers

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

2) **Public Hearing – Redistricting Plan:** Commissioner Markstrom adjourned the meeting into the public hearing at 3:00 p.m.

3) **Reconvene:** Commissioner Markstrom reconvened the regular meeting at 3:04 p.m.

4) **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve the October 5, 2022, agenda as submitted. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) **Good of the Order/Public Comment:** Commissioner Markstrom stated that this time during the Port Commission's meetings is for the public to provide their comments. The Port Commission welcomes and encourages their comments and participation. He said that the public is welcome to comment on items on the agenda or items not on the agenda; however, this is not time for the Commission to answer questions. He said that if the public asks a question and would like a follow-up, to please provide contact information and the Port will do its best to follow up at a later date. He said that those attending remotely via teleconference or others who are unable to attend can submit written comments to agraber@portofcentralia.com before 2:00 p.m. the day of the meetings. Those written comments will be attached to the meeting minutes. He added that everyone is lucky to live in a great community where they are all passionate about making the community a great place to live. While everyone might not always agree on how to achieve that, it is important that everyone recognizes that they can all be passionate about their ideas while also respecting each other. He reminded everyone that they have three minutes for their comments and if the time limit is reached, he will ask them to wrap up their comments.

Gary Odegaard, of Centralia, apologized for his senior moment at the previous meeting and said that he could not think of the word "respect," although he did come up with other words. He mentioned Rodney Dangerfield and that you would like to have respect and said that when King Charles became king he said that his goal was to respect his people. He thought that was what the group is asking for when they come to meetings and ask questions. He said that they are not against the Port and think it is great. The executive director has done a lot of wonderful things over the years to build

it up. He said the group does not get respect and a little over a month ago he had tried to build up a little credence for each of them in the group. He also thought that Commissioner Lahmann gets walked over at times and does not get respect. Commissioner Lahmann has had a lot of experience over the years contracting and building similar to what goes on at Centralia Station, apprenticeship training all over the state, and involvement in the local community. He added that if the Port had Zoom it would be an opportunity to attend the meeting from home, if someone had COVID or something like that or like Commissioner Shaffley for this meeting. He said it would be nice to have the picture and the visual. Commissioner Markstrom stated that Commissioner Shaffley is attending the meeting via teleconference. Gary Odegaard said that while he guesses Zoom is never going to happen that the Commissioners consider using the telephone system like Commissioner Shaffley is with the ability to make comments and ask questions during the comment section from home.

Paul Crowner, of Centralia, said that what he has to say dovetails with the economic impact. He said it was a brief little history as he writes out his second-half check for property taxes. In a response to a decline in the economy in the 1980s, local business and civic leaders sought creation of a public port district as a means to promote and diversify the area's development. He said that Lewis County voters had previously rejected the creation of a county-wide Port of Lewis County. The law prohibited the creation of smaller port districts, but eventually the state law was changed in the legislature thanks to the efforts of Representative Jay Vander Stoep of Chehalis and a senator from Centralia. He said that the law took effect in June 1986 and on September 16, 1986, voters in the Centralia School District approved the formation of the Port of Centralia by a vote of 2,133 in favor and 1,661 against, a 60% majority with 40% voting against. He said that the three Commissioners elected at that same time were Robert Thompson, Art Lehman, and Gene Groshong, who was a teacher and educator. None of the current Commissioners or staff were in office at that time. He said that current Commission President Markstrom was probably in kindergarten. Commissioner Markstrom replied that he was not even born yet. Paul Crowner said that time it passed and in 1994 the Port was chosen as the state's best port district under the administration of Wendy Paulin. Then-Commissioner Robert Thompson stated, as reported in The Chronicle on December 20, 1994, "Our primary goal is to eliminate the tax levy." Commissioner Thompson went on to add that he hoped that that would happen in eight to 10 years and the Port hopes to get by slowly on its rental revenue and any grants it obtains. He said that that promise was made almost 28 years ago and it still has not come to fruition. He said that under the current three Commissioners, he wonders if he will see that ambition of a founder of the Port, Robert Thompson, whom a road is named after, finally come to pass with the leadership of today's Commission and administration. He said he was sure Commissioner Thompson would, as a businessman and a gentleman, would appreciate the honor. He added that he had copies if anyone would like a copy.

Scott Tennant, of Chehalis, said that he is a retired member of Local 96. He said that he is attending the meeting because at the previous meeting, his efforts to read a letter into the record were prostrated by the time limit. At that time, he had wanted to try to bring forth a proposal, if not more of a motion, for the Commissioners to make to entertain a citizens governing committee for the Port. He said that The Chronicle asked him for that document, which he did. He said that he was at the meeting today to ask how he gets a letter written into the record of the Port of Centralia meetings. Commissioner Markstrom replied that members of the public can submit written comment and it will be included in the meeting minutes.

Jan Banevich, of Centralia, said that recently the Port of Olympia and she believes the county decided to go to five commissioners instead of three. She suggested that the Port of Centralia make the same decision and go to five Commissioners instead of three. She said that it might keep the problem that has been happening of one Commissioner being kept out of everything, denied discussions on anything, and not being able to represent the constituents in his district.

Brian Dow, of Centralia, said that he had made discussions in the past about moving the public comment period toward the end of the meeting again or even sporadically throughout the meeting so that participants at the meetings can ask questions as developments come along during the meeting. He said that he noticed it is still obviously at the forefront of the meeting and he does not see why that would be a big problem or an issue. He said that the Centralia City Council meetings, the mayor repeatedly asks for public discussion or comments throughout the meetings if there is any, even on Zoom. He said that that combination is not at the Port of Centralia and he appreciates the Commissioners trying to consider that some more.

6) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve the September 7, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lahmann said that he would like to compliment Port staff because he thinks they are doing a great job capturing what is going on.

7) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve warrants 22665 through 22717 with an aggregate amount of $149,096.67. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8) **New Business:**

a) **Executive Director Report:** Kyle Heaton reported that the Port is moving on the projects it currently has going. He stated that Linden Comansa has submitted what the Port needs for their yard development and it will be reviewed over the next few weeks. He said that Furgerson Schmidt has also made their submission and the Port is working through the last couple of items with them with Van Ness Feldman. He said the Port is confident that they will be under construction in October as well.

Kyle Heaton stated that the last house on Alder Street had asbestos in the window putty. The abatement will take place the next day and permits will be applied for once that is completed, after which there is a two-week waiting period. He added that the Brotherson Road Apartments are now at less than 50% vacancy and the Port continues to work with the property manager. There are a lot of abandoned vehicles on Brotherson Road so as the Port is cleaning up everything it is time to remove those as well. He reported that the Port had a pre-construction meeting with Midway Underground and the City, which went well. He said that Midway Underground will likely move to the site the following week. He said that the portions of the project that will be completed this year will be weather dependent, but it will likely be storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and the road bed. Then the project will be buttoned up and assessed. Commissioner Markstrom said that it was fantastic news. Kyle Heaton said that Midway Underground is a good contractor and everyone is working together on the project. He said that the Port has issued the Notice to Proceed and they are prepared to do so. The Port has pulled the

right-of-way permit for them so they are ready to go once they finish up other projects that they are currently working on.

Kyle Heaton stated that he would like to follow up on some misinformation that is circling regarding the mobile home park that the Port acquired from the Swope estate. He said the no one would have to leave there for a minimum of three years, which is state law. He said there is no point in scaring people that they have to leave. All of the tenants have been spoken to and they understand that they do not have to leave. He added that the Port's long-term vision is development in there but the utilities are still a considerable distance away. He said the tenants do need to make long-term plans, but for the near future they are fine and that the Port will honor the rental rates that were in place, so the Port did not raise any rent. Commissioner Markstron thanked Kyle Heaton for that clarification.

b) **Economic Impact Study:** Kyle Heaton presented the Revised Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the Port of Centralia's Industrial Parks, a study contracted with ECONorthwest. He said that ECONorthwest is one of the premier economic firms in the Northwest and they are recognized by the SEC for bond issues because you can make reliance on their numbers. He said that the firm did a very in-depth job. Part of the study was updating work that they had previously done for the Port five or six years ago and another part is taking a look at a couple of new issues, such as the market going forward post-COVID and where things are at and, secondly, the property tax impacts that the Port's tenants. He said that it is misleading because it is a small portion of what the tenants actually pay. The City of Centralia made a shift when they moved Riverside Fire Authority to District 12, they transferred that $1.50 per $1,000 to District 12, yet their revenues did not decrease a penny that year. He said that the reason for that is that the City deployed seven utility taxes, so those utility taxes, rather than being on the landowner, are on the tenants. He said that it is a B&O tax and it is applied at various rates on natural gas, garbage, water, sewer, and electricity. For this exercise, the Port had ECONorthwest focus on the electrical portion of that. Commissioner Markstrom clarified for those attending that were following along that Kyle Heaton was discussing items on page 10 of the study. Kyle Heaton continued that the Port's eight largest power users were very accommodating in providing what they pay in utilities and it is substantial. Based on information from tenants and current rates, over the next year ECONorthwest estimates City Light revenues from the industrial parks will be approximately $5.3 million in 2023 in gross revenue. He said that that is the rates they charge and what they receive; they will obviously have to pay the Bonneville Power Administration and other people. He said that the City of Centralia's adopted budget for 2021/2022 notes that utility taxes are the largest revenue source for the City general fund. He repeated that utility taxes are the largest revenue source for the City general fund. The tax rate on electricity is 6% and the Port has estimated that the industrial park tenants will pay about $321,000 in electricity utility rates in 2023. He said that according to the City budget, utility tax rates on other services are 6% on natural gas, 6% on telecom services, 8% on cable, 10% on water, 14% on sewer, 10% on stormwater and surface utilities not included in the revenues for the City 6% utility tax. Using the state-level data and information available to ECONorthwest, the taxes estimates on those other services for industrial park tenants will amount to an additional $136,000 for a 2023 total utility taxes of approximately $450,000. He said that that is a significant amount that goes into the general fund and that is why when tenants such as UNFI, Sierra Pacific Industries, and Michaels go in that use a tremendous amount of power it is a tremendous win for the City beyond the large property taxes that they pay. He said that retail tax used to be the number one but that is no longer as it has very much become utility taxes. It presents its own set of issues for

tenants as it is a very regressive tax. He said that he would not go into the housing portion of it, but for industrial tenants in increases nets. The nets, beyond the lease in a triple-net lease, are insurance, taxes, and utilities. He said that the Port had hovered around $0.045 for a number of years but now it is at about $0.07 and Lacey is now at a lower rate than Centralia. He said that as the world gets more and more complicated the Port has to start watching more and more things to stay competitive. Overall, the study shows the positive impacts the industrial parks are having. He added that ECONorthwest used a common projection model that estimated total impacts of 4,647 jobs, just under $260 million in labor income, just under $1 billion at $970 million in output, and $27.7 million in state and local taxes from the Port's industrial parks. It is a significant impact that they have. He explained that the tenants create 2,300 jobs to get to the 4,600 jobs, which includes ancillary and induced jobs. Commissioner Markstrom asked if those are jobs outside the Port that support Port businesses. Kyle Heaton replied that that was correct.

Commissioner Markstrom stated that the study provided great information and he appreciated Port staff working with ECONorthwest and the firm's work on the study. Kyle Heaton said that Amy Graber had a lot of hours into it. Commissioner Markstrom said that it was fantastic information for the Commission to have to use in decision making and in thinking about the future, as well as to share with the public. He said that he thinks a lot of the times this topic is overlooked and it is easy to say things off the cuff and share opinions about the contributions of entities in the community, but it is nice to have hard, fast information that really shows the impact of the Port.

Kyle Heaton stated that the report would be posted on the Port's website after the meeting.

Commissioner Shaffley commented that the 2,300 people that are employed in the Port's three parks represent 8% of the payroll employees working in Lewis County, and that is significant. She added that the average wage salary/benefits is $58,000, including part-time employees at the parks. She said that the Port's parks are adding a lot to the community. She appreciated the economic report and thanked ECONorthwest for doing the study as well as Amy Graber and Kyle Heaton for their assistance. She said that it gives a clearer picture of the impact that the Port has on the community.

Commissioner Lahmann said that he would be interested in doing a direct wage study of that businesses in the Port are actually paying. He said that of course it would be voluntary as it is proprietary information. He said that he just wanted to make sure that when the Port is attracting businesses that it is attracting good living-wage businesses. He said that the numbers Commissioner Shaffley provided are fantastic and he thought that he heard the Economic Alliance of Lewis County say in the past that a minimum living wage is $42,000, which is $21/hour. He reiterated that he would like to make sure the Port is attracting good, solid businesses that are actually paying people good living wages.

Commissioner Markstrom replied that the Port has a really good track record of doing that. Kyle Heaton added that for the record the wages were pulled directly from Employment Security. They are directly from the Port's tenants and are not separated out by tenant, but that is how the State shares the labor data. Commissioner Markstrom said that that was the number then. Kyle Heaton replied that it was the number.

c) **Good of the Order/Public Comment:** Commissioner Markstrom stated that he would open the meeting to public comment for the Economic Impact Study agenda item.

Gary Odegaard, of Centralia, asked with those good numbers what makes the case for why property taxes are needed.

Commissioner Markstrom said that the Commission will not be answering questions at this time but he appreciates the comment and will take it under advisement.
Scott Tennant, of Chehalis, asked what the cost of the study was. Kyle Heaton replied that it cost just under $20,000.

d) **Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce Contract Renewal:** Kyle Heaton presented the Commissioners with the Contract for Technical Services between the Port of Centralia and the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce. He introduced Cynthia Mudge, the Chamber's new executive director. He said that she came on this spring and the contract is one of the housekeeping issues that the Port needed to do but waited to let her adjust. He said that the contract amount has not changed from the previous year and the amount has been steady since 2007. He said that there has been some reduction. In previous years the contract has been $30,000, but this year the proposed contract is for $25,000. He said that the Port appreciates all of the work the Chamber does for it. He said that over the last couple of years the Chamber has ran a number of hiring events for Port tenants, which have been very helpful. They have hosted a number of Business After Hours showcasing Port tenants. He added that one of the things he think is really overlooked was the frontline COVID support the Chamber provided. He said the Chamber was the first to collect masks and gloves and disseminate sanitizer, all before anybody knew whether this was a deadly pandemic. At that time in March 2022, the Chamber was doing the work and hustling to get it done. He said that the Port's tenants received a large portion of the PPE, so that was very helpful.

Commissioner Markstrom stated that he is not sure of the current number, but at times there have been eight to 12 Port tenants that are members of the Chamber. He asked Cynthia Mudge knew the number off the top of her head.

Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve the Contract for Technical Services between the Port of Centralia and the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce in the amount of $25,000. Commissioner Markstrom seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lahmann said that the type of statement in the economic report could have been done by the Chamber, based on the scope. He said he did not recall any reports furnishing current research data by the Chamber in the last two or three years, plus reports and studies limited to wage rates and personal income statistics, or other special reports. Kyle Heaton said that he would not because they are detailed for recruitment and the Chamber has worked hard with the Port on several recruitments, including UNFI. He said that all of that information was provided directly to the clients and the technical services portion is to assist the Port with recruitment, which is what the Chamber does.

The motion carried.

e) **Committee Reports:** Commissioner Shaffley reported that the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce will be holding a debate on October 13, 2022, at 11:30 am at O'Blarney's between the Lewis County Sheriff candidates and the Lewis County Commissioner candidates for District 3. She said they were going to be very informational and encouraged everyone to attend. She recommended that people come and get more acquainted with the candidates.

Commissioner Lahmann said that he had a question for Kyle Heaton about the apprenticeship utilization requirements on the Centralia Station project with Midway Underground. He said that apparently Midway Underground does not have a relationship with any apprenticeship. He asked Kyle Heaton if Midway Underground had said they were going to meet the apprenticeship requirement and how. Kyle Heaton replied that it was his understanding that Midway Underground intended to comply with all of the requirements of the job, but they did not speak to that specifically. Commissioner Lahmann said that one of the problems that can happen on projects with state funding and their apprenticeship utilization that if the requirements are not met, and Labor and Industries monitors it, checkmarks can be made against the entity for the next project that it applies for state funding for. Commissioner Markstrom replied that Midway Underground is a very reputable contractor. Kyle Heaton added that they do a lot of public works projects.

Commissioner Lahmann continued that he had taken a look at the plans and he did not see a utilities plan yet. He asked if there was an approved utilities plan, not for stormwater and water, but the plan for electrical power, cable, fiber, and gas, showing what the Port is going to do. Kyle Heaton replied that joint trenches had been discussed earlier in the day and City Light has not provided a plan yet. He said that the utilities will obviously be behind the sidewalk and it is known that the poles on Alder Street have to be moved. He said that the City Engineer agreed with the Port's approach that it is a matter of laying the conduit now without an idea of what is going in there. He said that it would be incredibly wasteful to spend money on transformers without knowing what size was going to be used. He said that it may be five years down the road before anyone needs one, so the Port will lay the conduit and a joint trench for telecoms. He said there is a question on natural gas since the State banned natural gas on all new construction, so he does not know if they need to leave the trench.

Commissioner Markstrom said that he wanted to reiterate that point because this question has been brought up multiple times. He said that it has been said before, so he really wants to reiterate it clearly and make sure everyone understands. The one tenant the Port has for the development is WinCo and the power for WinCo is available and will be there. The Port does not know what the rest of the development will look like and as time goes on it will learn, but it would be extremely irresponsible for the Port to spend taxpayer dollars to put electrical infrastructure in there in some amount that would just be guessed. He said that he was confused why this question keeps getting asked. The plan has been all along to bring in the utilities needed for the tenants that come to that area.

Kyle Heaton said that the City Engineer concurred that almost every other municipality executes it this way, including Chehalis, Napavine, and Winlock. He said that the City understands it and it is how the Port built Parks I and II. It is just a matter of getting the conduit in the ground. He said that Commissioner Markstrom was correct in that there is Phase 3 power at the site available for WinCo and WinCo will negotiate their own deal with the City of Centralia. It has nothing to

do with the Port and it is WinCo acquiring their utilities. He added that as tenants come in the future, the Port will take it from there.

Commissioner Lahmann said that Kyle Heaton answered it well about the common trend. He said that other utilities and asphalt are not put down and then trenches. Kyle Heaton said that the trenches are around the asphalt and behind the sidewalk. Commissioner Lahmann said that he has been doing this for 40-plus years, has taught people how to do it, and he can understand how it works. Kyle Heaton asked if he did. Commissioner Lahmann said that he did and that he is trying to do it in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Commissioner Markstrom said that he thinks the issue lies in that. He said that this is not the first project that the Port has done, or that the Port staff has done. He said that the Port's staff has developed two other parks and did not have any of these issues. He said that they understand that the Port's engineers understand how to address utilities and trenches, and all of these things. He said that he does not understand why Commissioner Lahmann feels like it needs to be hashed over. He said Port staff has done a fantastic job doing this multiple times and there is a clear track record of success. He asked why it is an issue.

Commissioner Lahmann replied that any organization has four functions: planning, organizing, lead, and control. He said that the Port Commissioners in the last few years has given up the planning function and has delegated authority, and that is fine, but they cannot delegate the responsibility. He said that the Port is doing the project for $6.1 million, yet there will be additional expenses after this when it returns after the contract is done. He said that he understands the size and transformers, all of that, but the fact is it is a year out to order transformers through City Light for the building. He said that he just wants to make sure that the Port has utilities in the ground so that it is ready to go. He said that the Port has changed the site plan two or three times since he has been in office, and the roadways, and they have never asked if it seems like it is a good idea. He said that he likes the way it is now and it is a great idea. It expands a lot and it provides more saleable property.

Commissioner Markstrom said that that is, again, testament to the fantastic job Port staff and Port engineers have done. He asked Commissioner Lahmann why he needs to question the work that they are doing when the Port has a clear track record of success.

Kyle Heaton said that going forward, the City Engineer has approved the plans, as has the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Port's engineers. The Port has awarded the contract to Midway Underground to execute the plans. He said the Port is going and getting it done. Commissioner Lahmann said that he was happy the Port was doing it. Kyle Heaton said that he was confident in the Port's engineer, who has been with the Port for 22 years or longer. He said that the Port and the engineer have built Kuper Road, Steelhammer Lane, Mahoney Drive, and Northpark Drive together. If there is a road, Steve Hatton designed it. Commissioner Lahmann said that he has a good plan and it looks good, although he is a little concerned about the flatness of the sewer, but that is the City's problem.

Commissioner Shaffley said that she really appreciates Port staff and that they go to experts for each individual project. The Port does not try to do it all itself, but goes to the experts to get the work right done and fluidly. She said there is always going to be changes and this project has morphed over the last 10 years, but this final schedule and final completion is going to be done

correctly. She said that the Port is not working as one entity; there are all different municipalities and different department heads, engineers, and attorneys all working together to make this project complete and a success.

Commissioner Lahmann agreed with Commissioner Shaffley and said that what he worries about is he wants to spend the money like it is his own. He is afraid the Port is acting like it is someone else's money so it is not as astute as it could be.
Commissioner Shaffley replied that she takes great responsibility and she takes it very seriously. She is elected to represent the people and their money, because it is her money also. She takes it very seriously. She said that she does not want to cut corners and in the end pay more, which is why Port staff goes to experts to make sure that it is done right the first time, because it is her money and the people she represents' money.

Commissioner Markstrom said that he does not have any committee reports and that he missed the last .09 Committee meeting.

Commissioner Lahmann said that he had a chat with one of the chiefs of Northwest Hardwoods and they are looking at expanding their shipping capabilities by rail. He had replied that the Port has rail but he did not know if it had the capacity and if it wanted to look into that potential opportunity. He said that he could get the person's contact information if the Port was interested in discussing it. Kyle Heaton replied that he had already talked to him and there was no interest.

Commissioner Lahmann said that he noticed that there will be upcoming budget hearings and he had noticed that it is also time for the Commissioner's annual employee review for the Executive Director per the personnel policy, page nine, paragraph five. He said that it should be done annually but has never been done since he has been in office. He said that he hoped that could be done before the budget comes out.

9) **Adjourn:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 p.m. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**COMMISSIONER** **COMMISSIONER**

A brief bit of Port history in regards to my 2nd half check for property taxes.

In response to a decline in the economy in the 1980's, local business and civic leaders saw creation of a public port district as a means to promote and diversify the area's development. Lewis County voters had previously rejected the creation of a countywide Port of Lewis County. The law prohibited the creation of smaller port districts. Eventually the state law was changed in the Legislature thanks to the efforts of Representative J. Vander Stoep of Chehalis, and Senator Stu Halson of Centralia. The law took effect in June 1986.

On September 16, 1986, voters in the Centralia School District approved the formation of the Port of Centralia, by a vote of 2,133 in favor, and 1,661 against, a 60 % majority, 40 % voting against. I will observe that the three commissioners elected at that time were Robert Thompson, Art Lehman, and Gene Groshong-who was a teacher and educator. None of our current commissioners or staff were in office at that time, in fact the current Chair Markstrom of the Commissioners was most likely in kindergarten, or soon to be.

Time passed, and the Port in 1994 was chosen as the state's best port district under the administration of Wendy Paulin. It was at that time that founding Port Commissioner Robert Thompson, stated as reported in The Chronicle, December 20, 1994, "Our primary goal is to eliminate the tax levy." Thompson went on to add, he hopes that will happen in eight to 10 years, and the port commission hopes to get by solely on its rental revenue and any grants it obtains. That promise was made almost 28 years ago, and has still not come to fruition.

Under the current three Commissioners, I wonder if we will see that ambition of a founder of the Port, Robert Thompson, of whom the road is named after, finally come to pass. With the leadership of today's commission and administration, I'm sure Thompson would as a businessman and gentleman appreciate the honor.

Paul Crowner