PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

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Minutes
Regular Meeting of the
PORT OF CENTRALIA
August 2, 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
Public: David Nunn; Gary Odegaard; Bill Ralph; Cynthia Mudge, Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce; Dave Norman; Jan Banevich; Paul Crowner; Bob Jackins; Dawn Merchant; Brian Dow; Eric Sonnenberg; Chad Taylor; Coralee Taylor; and Jared Sturdevant
Teleconference: Four 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 amended August 2, 2023, 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.

   Bill Ralph, of Centralia, commented on recent commentaries in The Chronicle. He said that in his opinion Jan Banevich and Commissioner Lahmann are both heroes in this community. He said that they have stood up to repeated criticisms and attacks from various sources, but it has just made them stronger.

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

   Jan Banevich, of Centralia, commented on Midway Underground's construction progress and costs.

   Paul Crowner, of Centralia, asked for introductions from everyone seated at the table at Port meetings.

4) **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve the July 19, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve warrants 23248 through 23275 with an aggregate amount of $1,918,674.05. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6) **New Business:**

a) **North Lewis County Industrial Access Presentation:** Laurie Lebowski-Young and Richard Warren of the Washington State Department of Transportation gave a presentation on the North Lewis County Industrial Access Transportation Study.

Commissioner Markstrom made a motion for Port staff to write a letter of support for the list of project recommendations from WSDOT. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lahmann said that he agreed with the list except for the location because he does not think it is optimal for the Port. Commissioner Markstrom explained why the WSDOT engineer's have decided it is not feasible to put an interchange at Kuper Road and discussed why the list of projects put forward were the most beneficial for the future of the community. Commissioner Shaffley added that the projects were being built for the needs of the future.

b) **Mellen Street Connector Stage 1 – Pay Estimate #8:** Commissioner Lahmann made a motion to approve Pay Estimate #8 with Midway Underground in the amount of $947,130.45 for the Mellen Street Connector Stage 1 project. Commissioner Shaffley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

c) **Mellen Street Connector Stage 1 – Change Order #5:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve Change Order #5 with Midway Underground in the amount of $236,000.00 for the Mellen Street Connector Stage 1 project to haul the current stockpiles to the west side of Yew Street. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

d) **Executive Director Report:** Kyle Heaton gave an update on Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Mellen Street Connector project. He said that the Port is in the process of negotiating a change order with Midway Underground for improvements that WinCo is asking for and the majority of which WinCo will be funding. He said the Port needs to work with the City of Centralia to make sure they are on board before approval. He added that WinCo has made a full submission to the City of Centralia for permitting and he expects them to be finished with the process in the next two months. The Port is moving forward with the boundary line adjustment in anticipation of closing with WinCo.

e) **Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Shaffley reported that she attended the Centralia City Council meeting.

Commissioner Lahmann reported that he had attended the Centralia City Council meeting, the Board of County Commissioners meeting, and the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development

Council meeting on economic development. Commissioner Lahmann said that there was a tree at the intersection of Kuper Road and Harrison Avenue that was blocking visibility that was previously discussed. He reported that he went by it the other day and the tree is obstructing vision to get onto Harrison Avenue. Kyle Heaton replied that he had not seen it but would investigate the matter.

Commissioner Lahmann asked what the Port's trespassing policy was because he had seen buzz on the Internet. He added that there were no "no trespassing" signs at the construction site. Kyle Heaton said that the site had posted multiple signs and it is an active construction site. He said that most people do not need to be told that they do not own the property and therefore they should not go on the property. He said that if someone posts pictures on the Internet that show them on Port property in an active construction site putting the Port, its contractors, and that person at risk, the Port must address it. He said that it would be best if people stayed off the site since they have no reason to be there anyway unless they are Port personnel, City personnel, or contractors.

Commissioner Lahmann said that the road closure signs from Alder Street to Long Road are not properly set and that is a potential liability. Kyle Heaton replied the Port has addressed the issue with the Port's engineer and the City's engineer. The Port had to get the City's permission to allow full barricades, which are going in. He said what is there now is in compliance with the City's specifications.

Commissioner Markstom stated that he did not have anything to report.

7) **Adjourn:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 p.m. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER **COMMISSIONER**