PORT OF CENTRALIA
Established 1986

3508 Galvin Road · Centralia, WA 98531-9002
Phone 360-736-3527 · Fax 360-330-5666
www.portofcentralia.com

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the
PORT OF CENTRALIA
October 18, 2023
Port of Centralia Administrative Office & Via Teleconference
3:00 PM

Attendees: Commissioners: Kyle Markstrom and Julie Shaffley; Peter Lahmann (via teleconference)
Executive Director: Kyle Heaton
Press: Owen Sexton, The Chronicle
Public: Gary Odegaard; Bill Ralph; Stephanie VonMoos, Jan Banevich; Bob Jackins; Brian Dow; and Dawn Merchant
Teleconference: Nine 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 18, 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.

Gary Odegaard, of Centralia, commented on the meeting call-in system and that he cannot unmute himself to make comments while using it, despite the recording saying that he could. He added it would be nice if people calling in to the meetings could make public comments.

Bill Ralph, of Centralia, commented that he has seen Jan Banevich attacked over the last few years for her efforts to make the Port Commission more open and accountable by Kyle Heaton and other Commissioners, as has Commissioner Lahmann. He said that Commissioner Shaffley has made a financial contribution to Commissioner Lahmann's challenger's campaign for the upcoming election and believes that is an effort to make sure that Commissioner Lahmann is not around to hold Commissioners Shaffley and Markstrom accountable.

Jan Banevich, of Centralia, asked if the Port Commission and Kyle Heaton have a code of conduct because she has been bullied and intimidated by Kyle Heaton with the passive assistance of Commissioner Shaffley and Commissioner Markstrom. She said that she has not received a response to the complaint she filed at the October 4, 2023, meeting, adding that Commissioner Lahmann was the only one to reach out and apologize. She said that they have created a hostile environment, and she would like an apology.

Brian Dow, of Centralia, said that he would like the constituents to be included more, for their opinions to be heard, and for the Port to have more information available to them.

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

5) **Approval of Warrants:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve warrants 23379 through 23409 with an aggregate amount of $78,307.99. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6) **New Business:**

a) **Executive Director Report:** Kyle Heaton gave an update on the Mellen Street Connector project for both Stages 1 and 2. He said that the Port is continuing to work on the boundary line adjustment for WinCo Foods with the City of Centralia. He added that a copy of the preliminary budget has been placed on file with the Port and the budget hearing will be held on November 15, 2023. He added that Commissioners have a detailed budget in their packet to prepare any questions for the budget hearing. Commissioner Markstrom thanked staff for the 2023 budget to projected with the 2024 preliminary budget and the trial balance to date as this will assist them in comparing.

b) **I-5/Mellen Street Connector – Stage 1 – Pay Estimate #9:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve Pay Estimate #9 with Midway Underground for Stage 1 of the I-5/Mellen Street Connector project in the amount of $713,018.26. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried. Commissioner Markstrom opened the agenda item for public comment. There was no public comment made.

c) **I-5/Mellen Street Connector – Stage 2 – Pay Estimate #4:** Commissioner Shaffley made a motion to approve Pay Estimate #4 with Scarsella Brothers for Stage 2 of the I-5/Mellen Street Connector project in the amount of $357,354.01. Commissioner Lahmann seconded the motion. The motion carried. Commissioner Markstrom opened the agenda item for public comment. There was no public comment made.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Lahmann asked Kyle Heaton if the Port put conduit in for other utilities along with the power vaults and conduit at Centralia Station. Kyle Heaton replied that telephone and fiber have a joint 3" conduit as per the plans. Commissioner Lahmann thanked the members of the public for their comments. He said that the Commissioners are hearing them and are doing what they can to make things better.

Commissioner Shaffley stated she attended the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce executive board meeting and the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners meeting. She announced several upcoming Chamber events.

Commissioner Markstrom reported that he attended a mayors' meeting and a Centralia City Council meeting.

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

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER