

MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2007
PORT COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Chairman Don McDaniel called the Special Meeting to order and took roll call.

Commissioners present: Don McDaniel, Larry Pfund, Jim Bergeron, Dan Hess and Bernie Bjork.

Staff present: Ron Larsen, Rita Fahrney, Port Attorney, Heather Reynolds.

Others present: See attendance sheet

CONSIDER ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION. Chairman McDaniel announced the Port of Astoria Commission and current Executive Director have come to agreement on a Separation from employment agreement for the Director. Chairman McDaniel stated Mr. Gearin will end his employment with the Port of Astoria, at the request of the Port of Astoria Commission, effective March 1, 2007. On execution of this agreement, Gearin will relinquish his duties as Executive Director. Until March 1, 2007 he will be responsible for completion and documentation of any projects under his supervision that can be completed during his tenure. A Separation Agreement has been signed by Mr. Gearin. The terms of the Separation Agreement will be made available to the public after this Special Meeting adjourns. He called for a motion.

Commissioner Pfund moved to approve the Separation Agreement. Commissioner Bergeron seconded the motion. Commissioner Hess commented "it sucks". Commissioner Pfund's motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2007-02 APPOINTING BUDGET OFFICER AND INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. Chairman McDaniel read Resolution 2007-02 appointing Ron Larsen Interim Executive Director and Budget Officer for the Port and appointing Rita Fahrney as interim director pro-tem in the absence of Director Ron Larsen. Commissioner Hess moved to approve Resolution 2007-02. Commissioner Bjork seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McDaniel advised he has prepared a News Release for the public. He read it in its entirety. It explains the reasons for the separation, citing both real and perceived mistakes in the past, many in the community have lost confidence in the Port of Astoria. It is the hope of the commission that the port can once again gain the trust and support of the community. The release also stated the commission is proud of the many accomplishments made by the port, including

major construction projects. The news release praised Gearin, Ron Larsen and Bill Cook for their efforts. The Port will continue to look towards long-term solutions for current dredging and other problems. McDaniel stated there will need to be a replacement for the financial aspects of the Port that was previously handled by Gearin and projects underway.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.