

MINUTES
PORT OF ASTORIA
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2006
PORT COMMISSION CHAMBERS

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

Commissioners present: Dan Hess, Larry Pfund, Jim Bergeron, and Don McDaniel. Glenn Taggart is excused.

Staff present: Ron Larsen, Esther Jones, and Port Attorney, Heather Reynolds.

Others present: Jeff Nelson (KAST) and Cassandra Profita (The Daily Astorian).

CHANGES TO AGENDA. None

Don McDaniel first read a letter from Glenn Taggart resigning from the commission effective September 1, 2006. Members of the commission and staff agreed he would be missed. Commissioner Hess moved to accept his letter of resignation. Commissioner Pfund seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES: Workshop Session July 11, 2006; Regular Meeting July 18, 2006. Commissioner Hess moved to approve the minutes of the aforementioned meetings. Commissioner Pfund seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VOUCHERS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2006. Commissioner Pfund announced he reviewed the vouchers, but has a question regarding a .01 owed to one of the staff. He also mentioned how good bookkeeping must be to have caught the discrepancy. Commissioner Pfund moved to approve vouchers for the month of July 2006. Commissioner Hess seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT. McDaniel called for public comment. Jeff Nelson did have a question on Glenn Taggart's length of remaining term and the process the port will take to fill the vacancy. Don McDaniel answered: three and one half years to go. The port will advertise for applications; the commission will then review what comes in.

CONSENT AGENDA – Resolution 2006-13 Bornstein Lease Account. This is an interest-bearing account opened at the Bank of Astoria. Used to either make payments or transfers to the General Fund. Heather Reynolds added the port has to make accounting to the state, which keeps everything separate. Commissioner Hess moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bergeron seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2006-12 APPROVE LEASE AMENDMENT WITH CHARTER COMMUNICTAIONS Charter Communication has a lease with the port for fifteen years, which started in 1991. It allowed for two five-year extensions to the existing lease. This year Charter exercised the option and is asking the port to renew their lease that ends September this year. By allowing this option, their lease will extend through September 30, 2011. It carries a three percent increase. Commissioner Bergeron moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Pfund seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CALENDAR SCHEDULE. The cruise ship Infinity has cancelled the upcoming visit to the Port of Astoria on August 30th, due to propulsion problems.

REPORTS

Financial: None with Peter Gearin on vacation.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Bergeron reported on Colonel O'Donovan's with the Army Corps of Engineers visit on August 14th. He mentioned that the visit was favorable. Agreeing to work together on critical issues of dredging. Preferring flow lane disposal, the corps will look at working with the port. It would allow larger ships to berth at the piers.

More discussion followed on different levels of contamination all agencies involved look at, such as, (SCORCH) from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and dredge management numbers (DMEF) numbers with the Corps of Engineers. All have guidelines that involve testing in the slips and berths. It would be favorable to meet the numbers of each regulatory agency to be able to dredge.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) only mission is fish. The Corps of Engineers though is more understanding of the problem at hand.

Chairman McDaniel asked for any more reports from Ron, he did mention how slips and marina dredging in a smaller scales also an issue.

Commissioner Pfund made his report, says he came away from the meeting with the Corps feeling very good. More discussion followed on how the Corps of Engineers in the past dredges often times helped ports with private dredging operations. Possibly, it could happen here for the Port of Astoria too. Keeping with the law and the cost involved, everything needs to come together because dredge season begins November 1st.

Commissioner Hess concurred with the rest on the same meeting and how he thought how good it seemed to turn out.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman McDaniel asked the status of contracts with the Western Oregon Waste (WOW) project. Phase 1, was done by Enviologic Resource. The agency reported that they sent back notification to OECDD not taking recommendations from Enviologic Resources that Phase 2 was not required. Ron Larsen answered that the project is in Phase 2 being completed by Maul Foster Alongi. Initial responses seem that all is clean; results from testing still not in. Probably will not be able to test in the "pit" near Pacific View Windows until building is removed. WOW is willing to pay up front for environmental (Phase 2) assessments needed which can be reimbursed by a reduction in their lease payments over time.

The Federal Aviation Administration recommends a bird count to establish a baseline on the bird population currently at the site. This count will then be used in the future to determine if there are more or less birds as the project goes forth.

Also discussed, was the Energy Committees' projects, being wind, biodiesel, and wood waste. With Glenn Taggarts' resignation, who will take his place on the committee was in question. Commissioner Bergeron mentioned how he attends all the meetings and will probably be the one.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.