

MINUTES  
PORT OF ASTORIA  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2008  
PORT COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Chairman Dan Hess called the Special Meeting to order and took roll call.

Commissioners present: Dan Hess, Larry Pfund, Kathy Sanders, Bill Hunsinger and Floyd Holcom.

Staff present: Rita Fahrney, Colleen Browne, Harold Culver, John Hord, Esther Jones.

Others present: Pam Hunsinger, Cassandra Profita, Lori Durheim, Jeff Nelson, Dana Fergus, Lesle Palmeri.

CONSIDER SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION. Chairman Hess called for consideration of selection for filling the vacant position of Executive Director.

Commissioner Pfund stated of the candidates, Lee Hutchins he found very intelligent, bright and capable, great with huge projects. Dakota Chamberlain has tremendous capabilities, fits in well with airport, marina, facilities and employee groups. Jack Crider would be able to start immediately, has local connections, knows the people in federal and state agencies. He is well educated, knowledgeable about numbers and environmental issues and would be a tremendous fit for the Port of Astoria. Ron Larsen the interim director, Pfund commented, has not provided answers about information requests from commission members.

Commissioner Sanders voiced agreement with Commissioner Pfund's observations. Her top two picks are Dakota Chamberlain and Jack Crider. Chamberlain is impressive with an engineering background. She has some concerns about operational experience. Jack Crider, who was previous director at Port of Tillamook Bay, understands airport operations, fisheries and leasing. He is versed in capital improvements and maintenance. He has hands-on experience and would be good with public relations.

Commissioner Hunsinger noted the Port has a choice of tremendous applicants. All finalists are professionals in their own way. He stated he related well with Jack Crider who he found as an outgoing person who knows a lot about airports, is professional, easy to talk to and he believes, will handle staff well.

Commissioner Hunsinger stated he was leaning toward selecting Dakota Chamberlain, but recognizes the need to get a person onboard as soon as possible, and Chamberlain would not be available for a period of time. Mr. Crider would be available immediately to start looking into port operations. Hunsinger also noted Lee Hutchins, like Commissioner Pfund commented, is very intelligent and professional; however, he too is unavailable until August. Hunsinger echoed Pfund's comments on Ron Larsen, who he said they grew up together and know each other well. He is prepared to vote for Mr. Crider who will hit the floor running, and will be a tremendous asset for the Port.

Commissioner Holcom stated he is impressed with all final candidates. Despite issues at the Port, the Port had incredible individuals interested in coming on board at the Port to work. Holcom stated his objective is "serious change is needed". Ron Larsen was not included in his list of finalists. He stated Lee Hutchins is well educated, and would be an asset for the Port for special projects. He was very impressed with the skills of Dakota Chamberlain, his second choice, and would like to see him hired as #2 to assist Jack Crider. He encouraged commission members to look to reorganization of the Port.

Chairman Hess stated it is a hard choice. Lee Hutchins would be fantastic in projects and his expertise. Dakota Chamberlain is very active at the Port of Seattle, and he has heard port staff there would hate to see him go. Jack Crider has the experience, is highly respected by Port of Tillamook Bay people, who would like to have him back to work. Crider will be a hands-on person.

Commissioner Holcom moved to allow Chairman Hess to negotiate with selected candidate, Jack Crider, and authorize the Port Attorney to continue negotiations to get Crider on board as soon as possible. Commissioner Pfund seconded the motion. Holcom amended his motion to add incoming chairman, Larry Pfund, as part of the negotiation team. Commissioner Pfund seconded the amended motion. Commissioner Holcom's motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the Special Meeting was adjourned.