

**PORT OF ASTORIA – CLATSOP COUNTY JOINT WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 25, 2009**

A Joint Work Session was held between the Port of Astoria Board of Commissioners and the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 5:00 pm in the Judge Boyington Building, 857 Commercial Street, Astoria, Oregon. The workshop was open to the public but without public comment.

Purpose of the workshop was to discuss issues of mutual interest informally and work to improve Port and County relationship.

Clatsop County Chair Jeff Hazen called the Board of Commissioners to order and called roll call. Present were Commissioners Jeff Hazen, Patricia Roberts, John Raichl, Dirk Rohne and Ann Samuelson via telephone.

Port of Astoria President Larry Pfund called the Board of Commissioners to order and called roll call. Present were Commissioners Larry Pfund, Bill Hunsinger, Kathy Sanders and Floyd Holcom (Dan Hess was absent); and Executive Director Jack Crider.

Various guests and staff were also present, along with Jeff Nelson, KAST Radio and Jim Raskin, former mayor of Cannon Beach.

Jack Crider began the session by saying there is a need for the Port and County to work together, sharing assets and reaching out to South County. The Port has signed the loan document for \$100,000 initiating a financial relationship with the County.

The Port Commissioners then went on to explain projects underway:

- Air passenger service to begin March 15. The new aircraft can haul up to 9 passengers and freight with direct flights from Astoria and Newport to Hillsboro, then transported to PDX for national and global flights. The Port has lost 2 business opportunities from lack of air service. Daily freight will be very beneficial to businesses, especially commercial fishermen getting their fish to markets. The Platus aircraft with two pilots is a good fit for firms requiring travel with two pilots and the passenger size being below the TSA requirements is a time saver. Air service is a good tool for potential tenants of Tongue Point.
- Pier 2 has rehabilitation underway as part of a several year project estimated at \$10 million.
- Dredging this year was the most successful season for several years, along with fender piles being repaired to receive larger vessels.
- Cruise ship decline is not due to the economy but will decline in 2009 from schedules. Year 2010 should be a record high year. The Winter Olympics will bring some ship packages upriver, stopping in Astoria.
- Chinook Building had been an eyesore but repairs of a new roof and painting have improved its presence. Four new tenants have moved in with 2 more spaces to lease. Looking at a Fisherman's Market for the small commercial fishermen to sell their fish. The upstairs and restaurant portion still have repairs needed.

- Red Lion Motel has five years left on their lease, its unknown if they will re-lease the premises.
- ODOT Trail River Walk project of \$750,000 will present more public access to Port property and piers. The City of Warrenton has been turned down for grants to expand their trail to the Port's trail, but it is expected to be funded in the future.
- Tongue Point purchase and development will be a huge economic development asset. Already potential tenants are very interested in leasing. Port of Portland is anxious to lease storage space. Several businesses in Seattle are interested.
- Captain of the Port relocation from Portland to Astoria will bring 40-50 families.
- Astoria Airport is under construction for 2 new T-Hangar buildings and taxiway rehabilitation. FAA received good stimulus funding, allowing flexibility within their program. The Port will be looking at a used foam truck, new ones cost \$200,000. It's not required for the air service but would increase safety measures at the airport. Neither the Coast Guard nor the Fire Department has foam equipment.

Other discussion items included:

- There are many demands on both entities with common interest and cooperatively could represent each other on projects and equipment use.
- Port has become involved with Seaside Airport, offering support.
- Railroad Breach at Knappa is an environmental problem. The County was thanked for trying to get the 170' of rail restored. The rail is vital for intermodal transportation for economic development. Potential Tongue Point tenants will require rail service.
- Diking Districts need instructions and/or help for emergency responses within the 30-day window. A workshop on wetland issues would be helpful.
- Fish hatcheries, including Big Creek, intends to go to steelhead and trout. Sandy River is closing. The fishing industry needs help to protect the Chinook and Silver species by keeping the hatcheries on track for future commercial fishing in four years. Testifying to the Legislature is needed to support the fisheries.
- South County support is needed. Jay Raskin, Cannon Beach former mayor, talked about their interest in bringing in more economic activity. The business community is trying to market the area. In December a letter was sent to the Port of Astoria asking for help for economic development. In light of this request the Commissioners agreed to meet in Cannon Beach for the next quarter meeting.
- The next quarter meeting will be held in Cannon Beach. Jack Crider will take the lead for the meeting by coordinating the date, advertise the meeting with a ¼ page notice in the newspaper and notify persons of interest.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Submitted by Janet Farstad

