

**PORT OF ASTORIA
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 10, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Larry Pfund called the Special Meeting to order at 4:02 pm and took roll call.

Persons present were:

Commissioners: Larry Pfund, President; Bill Hunsinger, Vice-President; Kathy Sanders, Secretary; Floyd Holcom, Treasurer; and Dan Hess, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Staff: Jack Crider, Executive Director and Colleen Browne, Finance Manager

Also present were Janet Farstad, Lesle Palmeri, and John Lansing

News Media: Cassandra Profita, The Daily Astorian and Jeff Nelson, Radio KAST

Guests: (see sign-in sheet)

2. AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Commissioner Sanders requested to add 5.5. Constituent Complaint

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Bornstein provided a copy of House Bill 2223, petitioned by ODF&W, to increase fees related to hunting, angling and commercial fishing. His concern is Section 26 that addresses every person operating as a canner, buyer, bait dealer or wholesaler of any food fish or shellfish shall pay (a) All salmon and steelhead, 3.15 % (b) black rockfish, blue rockfish and nearshore fish, 3.15% (c) all other food fish and shellfish, 3.15%. This amount is a 289% increase over current fees. This increase is estimated to be \$600,000 from the Astoria fishing community paid to the state. It was the consensus of the Board to prepare a resolution of non-support of this increase, to be presented at the next meeting.

4. RESOLUTION 2009-09 OREGON SAVINGS GROWTH PLAN

Colleen Browne explained that the deferred compensation plans for Port staff are AIG and Nationwide. The staff is recommending canceling AIG and replacing it with the State of Oregon Growth Plan administered by PERS. The State Growth Plan has lower fees for staff; no cost to the Port.

Dan Hess moved to approve Resolution 2009-09 to let persons who want to may choose Oregon Savings Plan, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb.

Discussion: none Vote: unanimously approved.

5. BANK OF ASTORIA – LOAN EXTENSION

Director Crider requested approval for a three month extension for the loan.

Commissioner Sanders moved to approve the loan extension, seconded by Commissioner Hess and unanimously approved.

5.5. CONSTITUANT COMPLAINT

Commissioner Sanders read her constituent complaint about a possible violation of the Public Meetings Law, the definition of the law and recent instances of meetings that would not be considered a public meeting. According to the

constituent and confirmed by another person, Commissioners Floyd Holcom, Larry Pfund and Bill Hunsinger met at the Port office with Director Jack Crider and Bill Cook on February 19. Four questions were addressed to President Pfund: 1) What exactly was discussed on Feb. 19, was anyone on the telephone; 2) Was it a planned meeting; 3) Why were Commissioners Hess and Sanders not informed of the meeting before or after; 4) How many other times have Commissioners Pfund, Holcom and Hunsinger met together at the Port or elsewhere outside of an advertised public meeting, including telephone conferences.

Discussion:

President Pfund said he and Bill Hunsinger stopped by the office upon returning from Portland, to report the court session to Jack Crider and wait for his ride. There was no dark conspiracy or phone conference. Bill Cook stopped by to talk to Jack Crider about the dredge violation and could now tell his side of the story since the violation had been settled. He did not know that some commissioners were there. As far as the questions, there was no meeting, only a chance encounter.

Commissioner Holcom said on that day he came into the office to read old minutes, as he had been doing several days a week over that last several months; and to listen to a telephone briefing between the Washington Group and Jack Crider. He and Commissioner Hunsinger had been chosen to work with the Washington Group. It was a chance meeting that 3 commissioners were all in the office at the same time. He was amazed at how open the Port is and can personally say no to all 4 questions.

Commissioner Hunsinger said he and Commissioner Pfund came back from Portland and then Bill Cook came in. Commissioner Holcom was reading minutes across the room.

Director Crider stated that the board is very active and that in the future when 3 commissioners happen in, one will need to leave.

6. DISCUSSION

A. WASHINGTON DC TRIP

Commissioner Pfund and Director Crider said it was a very good trip. Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) was a good organization to work with and they got in front of higher officials than if they had made appointments without PNWA.

At the next meeting the agenda will include talking about a lobbyist (Jim Beal) and funding.

An application for Stimulus funds was sent in requesting an extension of the Connect II Pier 2 repairs project already underway.

The rest of 2010 funding will come from earmarks.

B. COMMITTEE FORMATION

Commissioner Holcom requested reinstating the Airport and Marina Committees where in the past important aspects were brought to the commission. He proposed to look at

prior charters previously approved by the commission and try to get them back. He talked to John Riechl, who previously had been on the Airport Committee, and he was interested in coming back. He offered to contact the members and check on their interest. Director Crider recommended starting with the Airport committee before moving on, to start the committees one at a time and get them organized.

Commissioner Pfund believed that the Airport Committee is not disbanded as they worked on the recent Airport Master Plan.

C. COLUMBIA RIVER SOLUTIONS GROUP

Commissioner Hunsinger reported that he and Jay Flint attended the Columbia River Solutions Group meeting and he was very impressed with Jay's participation. Dredging is a real burden to the Port and help is needed to defray costs. Flooding is a problem that other ports don't have. Toxic waste is a problem that comes from upriver and settles at the mouth of the river for Astoria to move. Astoria is the only port in Oregon with cruise ships. Jetties need to be constructed to divert some of the problems. The Columbia River Solutions Group agreed to try and find funding to help with the cost of dredging. Jay Flint is to provide documentation on where to dump dredge spoils.

Commissioner Holcom recommended a strategy session just on dredging to discuss past experiments and future challenges.

Director Crider said the Corp of Engineers will have \$15 billion over the next few years so there is a need to get Astoria on their list.

D. STRATEGIC PLAN RFP PROCESS

Janet Farstad reported that 30 RFP packages were sent out, 7 responses were received. The responses along with an evaluation sheet were distributed to the commissioners.

Commissioner Sanders was concerned about starting the plan process prior to the commissioner election as any new commissioner should be involved in the planning.

Director Crider said that it will be a long process over 6-8 months once the consultant is selected. He requested the evaluation sheets be turned into the office prior to the next meeting in order to rank them. Interviews could then be scheduled.

E. OTHER CONCERNS/REPORTS

Commissioner Hess reported that the Western Oregon Conference will meet in Astoria March 30 to April 2. The conference in Astoria gets the largest turnout. Previously the Port sponsored a continental breakfast. The consensus of the board was to sponsor it again this year.

Commissioner Hess asked about members for the Budget Committee. Director Crider reported that letters were sent out with four good responses. The Seaside representative did not respond. An advertisement will be placed for that position.

John Lansing reported that the SeaPort passenger service Grand Opening is falling into place; terminal is looking good; waiting for RSVP's; getting tents from Camp Rilea; and SeaPort is sending 2 airplanes (one for static display and one for official's fun ride).

7. **RECESS at 5:06 pm TO EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORS 192.660 (2)(e) TO CONDUCT REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS AND (2)(h) CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING LITIGATION.**
8. **RECONVENED** at 6:00 pm.
9. **ADJOURN** at 6:00 pm with no further business.

Submitted by Janet Farstad

