

**MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2014**

**PORT OF ASTORIA
REGULAR SESSION
PORT COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

Call to order

Chairman Raichl called the Regular Meeting to order.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: John Raichl, Bill Hunsinger, Steve Fulton, Jim Campbell and Robert Mushen.

Staff present: Interim Director Mike Weston, Operations Manager Matt McGrath, Permit and Projects Manager Robert Evert, and Board Secretary Judy Farfan.

Pledge of Allegiance

Changes/Additions

Interim Director Mike Weston requested the removal of the August 2014 Financials from the agenda.

Public Comment – for items on the agenda except public hearings.

Jack Bland, Gearhart, Oregon

Mr. Bland told the Commission that even though he resigned his seat on the Commission, he is still concerned about, and committed to, the Port of Astoria and the citizens of the county. He presented the Commission with a list of questions, which he read to the Commission.

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Mushen moved to approve the consent calendar with the exception of the August financials. Commissioner Campbell seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings

John Corbin, Seaside, Oregon – Chairman, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission

Mr. Corbin told the Commission that the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission is adamantly opposed to the tariff. He also noted that as a concerned local fisherman, the Oregon buyers are at a disadvantage already, as the state of Oregon has higher landing taxes than the state of Washington. Mr. Corbin expressed concern that the tariff will ultimately hurt Astoria and send many local fishermen across the river.

Andrew Bornstein, Bornstein Seafoods, Astoria, Oregon

Mr. Bornstein commented on behalf of the citizens of Clatsop County and as a member of the seafood industry. He noted that over the last decade, the Port had been successful in attracting the seafood industry to the area; however, the tariff sends a message that the seafood community is no longer wanted at the Port. Mr. Bornstein also spoke to the Commission about the taxes and fees already accessed on local fisherman.

Andrew Bornstein, Bornstein Seafoods, Astoria, Oregon (Continued)

Discussion followed regarding items such as the need for documentation to make an informed decision; who is ultimately responsible for the paying the tariff; and what the income from the tariff will cover in regard to port properties and maintenance issues.

Jon Englund, Englund Marine, Astoria, Oregon

Mr. Englund spoke to the Commission about the seafood cluster and the investment that was made by many into the cluster. He feels that with the tariff changes, the Port is sending a bad message to the community. Mr. Englund suggested that the Port discuss the tariff at the Oregon Public Ports Association Conference, to get an idea how the other ports handle a tariff. Mr. Englund noted the importance of maintaining communication with Port tenants, as many are concerned about the happenings on Pier Three.

Discussion followed regarding the Commission taking all input from the community into consideration; the master plan versus the strategic plan; obtaining information from the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; and postponing the adoption of the tariff until the new Executive Director is in place.

Commissioner Campbell moved to postpone the public hearing until the October 7th, 2014 Special Session. Commissioner Fulton seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Columbia Pacific Marine Works

Interim Director Mike Weston presented the Commission with a proposal from Columbia Pacific Marine Works. He explained to the Commission that Columbia Pacific Marine Works has been considering selling their business to retire, and are offering to sell the building to the Port.

Discussion followed regarding the need for an appraisal for the building; improvements that have been made to the building; and possible uses for the building.

Commissioner Mushen moved to direct staff to investigate the Ports options in purchasing the building known as Columbia Pacific Marine Works, Inc. Commissioner Hunsinger seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

N/A

Commissioners/Director Reports

- Commissioner Mushen reported that he had recently attended the Columbia Pacific EDD meeting, and that they are currently working on a plan to provide loans without creating added financial difficulties. He also noted that he attended the Northwest ACT meeting. Commissioner Mushen also took a moment to answer a few of Mr. Bland's questions, noting that some of the questions cover issues that cannot be discussed.
- Commissioner Fulton reported that he and Commissioner Campbell had recently attended a meeting with Senator Betsy Johnson regarding a letter from Business Oregon, in which the Port of Astoria was forgiven the remaining balances on two loans used for the airport infrastructure. Staff read the news release from Chairman Raichl to those assembled. He also noted that he and Interim Director Mike Weston had attended an Astoria City Council meeting, at which the Pacific Greenway was discussed, which affects port property at the East End Basin. Commissioner Fulton suggested that staff gather information on the impact of the overlay to the Port.
- Commissioner Hunsinger reported that he had been meeting with biologists from Oregon and Washington, via phone, in regard to the commercial fishing industry, and the Governor's plan. He also spoke about the large amount of salmon in this year's return, and the need for more meetings in regard to the Governor's plan and the direction it may take.

Commissioners/Director Reports (Continued)

- Chairman Raichl noted that he had been out of town over the last three weeks, so therefore, did not have current meeting information to report. He mentioned that he would like for Commissioner Hunsinger to give him a tour of Pier 2 sometime in the near future, so that he can meet some of the Port tenants and learn more about their operations.
- The Commission took a moment to address some of Mr. Bland's questions.
- Interim Director Mike Weston reported that he has been working with Clatsop County, CEDR and a few other agencies in regard to the Enterprise Zones, in an attempt to attract businesses to Port properties. He also noted that the Port has been awarded two grants; the Connect Oregon V Grant for \$480,000, and the Dept. of Homeland Security Grant for approximately \$300,000, as well as the FAA match to complete the airport runway overlay.
Mr. Weston updated the Commission about Astoria Forest Products' plans on the piers and possible expansion.
Discussion followed regarding Astoria Forest Products' lease; compliance with noise levels; and possible storm water issues.
- Commissioner Fulton requested a central email address for Port Commissioners to receive email from the public, which staff would then forward to the Commission.

Good of Order – Public Comment for items not on the agenda

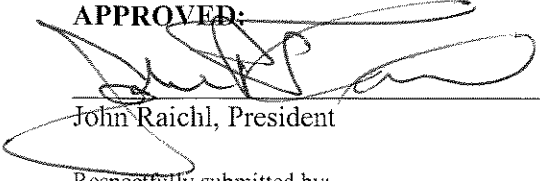
- Lori Durham, Astoria, Oregon
Ms. Durham noted to the Commission that she had also been attending local meetings, and updated the Commission on information regarding the type of terminal developments discussed at these meetings.
- Ninette Jones, Portland, Oregon
Ms. Jones thanked the Interim Director for attending the subduction zone meeting, and expressed that she hopes that the Commission will take the future development of river properties very seriously.

Next Meeting Dates

- Special Session Meeting – October 7th, 2014 at 6:00 PM
- Regular Session Meeting – October 21st, 2014 at 6:00 PM

Adjourned

APPROVED:



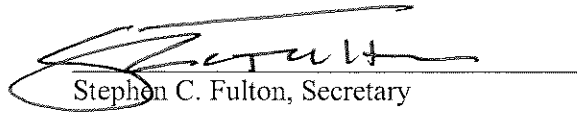
John Raichl, President

Respectfully submitted by:
Judy Farfan, Board Secretary

10/28/2014

Date Approved

ATTEST:



Stephen C. Fulton, Secretary