

**MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2026**

**PORT OF ASTORIA
WORKSHOP SESSION
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
422 GATEWAY AVE., SUITE 100
ASTORIA, OR 97103**

Call to Order

Chairman Rohne called the Workshop Session to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Robert Stevens; Thaddeus Fickel; Dirk Rohne; James Campbell; and Tim Hill.

Staff Present: Executive Director Will Isom; Deputy Director Matt McGrath; Office Manager Dianna Delgado.

Port Counsel: Eileen Eakins was not present.

Also Attending: Finance Committee Chairman David Oser, Jay Corella of *The Daily Astorian*.

Pledge of Allegiance

Changes/Additions to the Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Action Items

6a. Quadient Postage Machine Lease Agreement

Executive Director Will Isom presented a proposal to renew the 39-month lease agreement with Quadient for a postage machine at the administrative offices at a promotional rate of \$80.99 per month, resulting in savings of approximately \$15 per month.

Commissioner Campbell moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a 39-month lease agreement with Quadient for a postage machine at a monthly cost of \$80.99, effective November 10, 2026. Commissioner Fickel seconded. The motion carried 5-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

Votes were as follows: Stevens – Aye, Fickel – Aye, Rohne – Aye, Campbell – Aye, Hill – Aye.

Commission Comments

Commissioner Campbell commented on the following:

- Suggested moving future meetings to 7:00 PM to improve accessibility to the public and raised concerns about outfall pipe placement.

Commissioner Stevens commented on the following:

- Attended the Town Hall meeting with Senator Jeff Merkley. Many other City leadership representatives were present.
- Emphasized the importance of attending public meetings to maintain visibility for the Port.
- Reported on the Cruise Hosts Board meeting, noting the recent organizational changes and commending them on a well-run session.

Commissioner Fickel commented on the following:

- Attended the Airport Advisory Committee meeting on January 12 and Senator Merkley's town hall on January 17. Shared highlights of the meetings and the importance of community engagement.
- Might be attending the next Commission meeting remotely.

Commissioner Rohne commented on the following:

- Shared enthusiasm for the potential commercial air service at the Astoria Regional Airport and discussed the importance of collaboration with local stakeholders to secure funding for sustainable operations.

Commissioner Hill commented on the following:

- Shared optimism about the potential commercial air service and improvements at the Airport's FBO terminal.

Executive Director Comments

- There has been significant progress on lease negotiations for the waterfront development. Isom emphasized the importance of addressing potential concerns early. Meetings will be arranged for Commissioners to review the lease agreements and give feedback before legal review by Port Counsel.
- A kickoff meeting was held with city officials, including the City Manager Scott Spence, Community Development Director John Roberts, City Engineer Nathan Crater, and Public Works Director Jeff Harrington, to review site plan details. The discussion focused on aligning the proposed hotel and culinary center with the master plan to avoid triggering conditional use requirements, which could complicate permitting. Atlin is currently preparing revised plans.
- A follow-up meeting with City staff and Business Oregon representative Melanie Olson was conducted to clarify expectations and discuss the permitting process. Isom stressed the need for proactive collaboration to prevent delays and ensure compliance with planning standards.
- The Port will host the Coast Guard's Advanced Helicopter Search and Rescue School during February. The training will take place in the Port's Commission Chambers.
- Isom expressed concern over recent proposals to reallocate \$70-75 million in Connect Oregon funds to cover state transportation shortfalls. These funds are critical for non-highway transportation projects, including the Port's planned Pier 2 improvements. Efforts are underway through the Oregon Public Ports Association and Business Oregon to preserve this funding.
- Isom highlighted the Boatyard's growth, noting that operating income increased from \$456,000 in Fiscal Year 2021 to over \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2025, and net income rose nearly fourfold. This growth represents efforts from the strong leadership and crew at the Boatyard and support from Northwest Oregon Works.
- Isom acknowledged a recent feature in *The Daily Astorian* spotlighting Commissioner Hill, praising its accuracy and positive portrayal. He noted that such coverage helps strengthen community engagement and awareness of the Port's Commission.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Regular Session – February 3, 2026, at 4:00 PM

- Workshop Session – February 17, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Adjourned:

Chairman Rohne adjourned the meeting at 4:35 PM.

APPROVED:



Dirk Rohne, Board Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Thaddeus Fickel, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

Respectfully submitted by:
Dianna Delgado
Office Manager

February 3, 2026

Date Approved by Commission