



**MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 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: Dirk Rohne; Robert Stevens; Tim Hill; James Campbell via zoom; and Thaddeus Fickel via zoom.

Staff Present: Executive Director Will Isom; Finance and HR Director Melanie Howard; Marina Manager Janice Burk; and Administrative Assistant Katie Brown.

Port Counsel: Eric Brickenstein of Haglund Kelley, LLP

Also Attending: Jay Corella of *The Daily Astorian*; Katie Frankowicz of *KMUN*; Finance Committee Member David Oser; Norma Hernandez; Debra Ferency; Tom Jenkins; Iris Douglas; and other community members.

Pledge of Allegiance

Changes/Additions to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comment

Norma Hernandez – Astoria, OR.

Ms. Hernandez expressed disappointment regarding the Federal Agent (ICE) incident on June 7th, citing concerns about public accountability, integrity, workplace culture. She urged the Commission to take responsibility, increase transparency, and address systemic issues rather than hoping the situation will be forgotten.

Danielle Maillard – Bay City, OR.

No response; did not speak when called.

Debra Ferency – Warrenton, OR.

Ms. Ferency also addressed the June 7 incident, requesting transparency regarding the Port's obligations under the Oregon Sanctuary Law and any potential violations. She asked the Port to evaluate the Federal Agents' (ICE) activity on Port property, provide employees with training on the First Amendment rights and sanctuary protections, and develop a public-facing plan outlining corrective actions.

Tom Jenkins – Astoria, OR.

Mr. Jenkins, identifying as an employee of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, highlighted available state and federal grant programs for which the Port is eligible. He reminded the Commission of its participation in the Oregon Resource Coordination Assistance Agreement and encouraged the Port to reach out for multilingual public-information resources.

Iris Douglas – Astoria, OR.

Ms. Douglas voiced concern about the June 7 incident, acknowledging the Commission may not have been aware of federal activity in advance but urging the Port to establish and publicly share a plan ensuring compliance with the Oregon Sanctuary Law and proper employee training. She emphasized the seriousness of the event and encouraged proactive communication with the community.

Commission Response to Public Comment:

Chairman Rohne stated that the Port takes the concerns seriously and is working closely with the Oregon Department of Justice. Rohne emphasized the Port's commitment to transparency and noted his understanding that the security guard on duty acted appropriately under Oregon law. Additional information will be shared as legally permissible.

Action Items

6a. Contract Agreement Renewal – America's Phone Guys

Finance & HR Director Melanie Howard presented a renewal of the Port's 3-year telecommunications service agreement. The monthly amount is decreasing from \$447 to \$426.09
Commissioner Hill moved to approve the lease agreement with America's Phone Guys at a monthly rate of \$426.09 for a 36-month term and authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement. Commissioner Stevens seconded. The motion carried 5-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

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

6b. Resolution 2026-03 Authorization for Financing Agreement

Howard requested approval to move forward with negotiations for a short-term loan of approximately \$500,000 to support dredging work in November. Executive Director Isom explained that completing years two and three of the dredging contract together would save mobilization costs. The contractor, Brennan Construction, is prepared to accelerate work.
Commissioner Stevens moved to adopt Resolution 2026-03, authorizing the Financing Agreement as presented. Commissioner Hill seconded. The motion carried 5-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

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

6c. Resolution 2026-04 Adopting the Supplemental Budget 2025-2026

Howard outlined the need for a supplemental budget due to over-expenditures in Materials and Services, largely tied to \$2.5 million in unbudgeted environmental cleanup costs. Capital Outlay is under budget by approximately \$2.9 million, allowing the Port to reallocate appropriations to remain in compliance with Oregon budget law. Isom provided context regarding the environmental cleanup costs, including early detection, containment success, and ongoing coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard and DEQ.

Commissioner Stevens moved to approve Resolution 2026-04, adopting the Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, as presented. Commissioner Hill seconded. The motion carried 5-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

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



Port of Astoria

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Robert Stevens Board Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Thaddeus Fickel Secretary
Board of Commissioners

Respectfully submitted by:
Katie Brown, Administrative Assistant
Dianna Delgado, Office Manager

July 7, 2026

Date Approved by Commission

6d. Resolution 2026-05 Authorization for the Marina Proposed Rate Increase

Marina Manager Janice Burk presented the proposed implementations:

- A three-year moorage rate increase
- A new parking rate for vehicles with trailers
- A new fee for placement on the moorage waitlist.

Commissioner Hill moved to adopt Resolution 2026-05, authorizing the proposed Marina Rate Increase as presented. Commissioner Stevens seconded. The motion carried 5-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

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

Commission Comments

Commissioner Campbell commented on the following:

Reported he is in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho and there is heavy wildfire smoke in the area.

Commissioner Fickel commented on the following:

Thanked the public commenters and highlighted the importance of transparency regarding the sanctuary-law compliance and staff staining. Noted that many jurisdictions nationwide are facing similar issues.

Commissioner Stevens commented on the following:

Thanked the public for attending the meeting. Recently attended a cruise host meeting, though there were no notable updates.

Commissioner Hill did not have anything to report.

Commissioner Rohne commented on the following:

Reiterated gratitude for community engagement and stated confidence that the Port acted responsibly under difficult circumstances. He expressed hope to release more information as legally allowed.

Executive Director Comments

The Executive Director did not have any comments.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Regular Meeting – July 7, 2026, at 4:00 PM
- Workshop Session – July 21, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Adjourned:

Chairman Rohne adjourned the meeting at 4:28 PM.