

MINUTES

PORT OF SIUSLAW COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, 15 January 2014, 7:00pm

Port Office, 100 Harbor St, Florence OR 97439

ATTENDANCE:

Commission: Commissioner Terry Duman (Duman), Commissioner Jay Cable (Cable), Commissioner Bill Fleenor (Fleenor);

Absent: Commissioner Ron Caputo (Caputo), Commissioner Nancy Rickard (Rickard)

Staff: Port Manager Robert Forsythe (Forsythe), Recording Secretary Dina McClure (McClure);

Audience: Alan Campbell, Jay Nefcy, Dave Huntington, Dave Swinney, Larry Barney, Brien Mill, Don Saxon, Harlan Springer, Chief Jim Landburg

Commission Vice-President Duman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The approval of the minutes was tabled while a correction was made.

REMARKS FROM CITIZENS:

- David Swinney said at the last meeting McClure stated that he had looked at the wrong website for the Hercules reservation software and when he looked at the website she spoke of, it did have reservation software, plus a porn site pop-up at the bottom of the page. Swinney said the site he looked up initially was Hercules ERP which was not the wrong one. Swinney referred to Fleenor's suggestion to put out an RFP for bookkeeping services and said that is what Hercules ERP is. Swinney said he didn't understand why the port had paid so much money for the software when the state auditor said ERP bookkeeping is not being used in the US. Swinney said the port auditor was not happy with the Hercules reservation software until he spoke with the CEO of Hercules which is documented in the minutes. Changing the subject, Swinney said during his past employment he was taught to lead from a position of interacting with people, not with fear and antagonism. Swinney asked if the board had received a copy of his letter. The board questioned what letter Swinney was referring to. Fleenor said they had received a copy of the letter Swinney had written to the Oregon Ethics Commission, which was not being pursued due the complaint not being jurisdictional. Fleenor asked Swinney to state his reason for being here, why he keeps coming to the meetings with the same attitude, and said Swinney was doing a good job at demonstrating his lack of knowledge of how a port operates. The two of them started to argue and Fleenor again asked what Swinney wanted the board to do. Swinney said he wanted the port to run like a port and there wasn't a minimum of 30% water/marine related industries. Fleenor said that was not required and they started to argue again. Duman called for order and asked Swinney to state his point. Swinney said he had been intimidated and threatened into signing a moorage agreement that has not been voted on by the board. Swinney said staff had changed rules and Fleenor again asked what Swinney wanted the board to do. Swinney said he wanted the board to do what Fleenor was doing with Lane County, to stop covering up crimes. Fleenor asked Swinney if he wanted a welfare handout, they started to argue, and Duman called for an end to the conversation. Swinney said he would discontinue making public remarks but would monitor things from outside and ended by saying what goes around comes around.
- Chief Landburg introduced himself and asked if the board had any questions for him. Duman welcomed Landburg and said the Port and the Fire Department have always had a good working relationship. Duman asked about boat fires in the marina. Landburg

said he had experience with marinas and would like to arrange a drill for the port marina. There was discussion about length of hoses and creating a stand pipe connection. Fleenor thanked Landburg for coming and Forsythe complimented the staff at the SVFR.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: On the Motion made by Cable, and seconded by Fleenor, the board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on 20 November 2013.

FINANCIALS: On the Motion made by Fleenor, and seconded by Cable, the board voted unanimously to ratify the bills in the amount of \$104,946.56 for November, and \$87,217.99 for December. Fleenor suggested adding a running three year average to the Campground Occupancy Report and Duman asked that moorage occupancy be added to the report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Update:** Forsythe said \$3M has been set aside for ports with \$10M soon to be added. Forsythe said Representative DeFazio has been instrumental in the process. Forsythe said he and Caputo are going to the PNWA conference in Washington DC in March and plan to meet with legislators to discuss the issues further. Duman asked Springer, in the audience, if he wanted to comment. Springer asked for information about the trip to DC and Forsythe explained how they attend presentations and attend meetings with the Senators. Forsythe said he'd send more information to Springer. Springer asked what is being done to make the Port of Siuslaw stand out above the other ports for funding. Forsythe said he is in frequent contact with state legislators and staff from the Governor's office and it's an ongoing process. Duman agreed with Springer's emphasis on making Siuslaw stand out since state legislators represent other ports that Siuslaw is in competition with. Fleenor said a primary driver is homeland security and it helps to have a US Coast Guard station. Duman said the federal government has a responsibility to maintain the jetties they built and thanked Springer for his comments.
2. **RFP for Financials Update:** Forsythe said there was no formal solicitation since it was below the threshold to do so. Forsythe said he and McClure met with Holloway and Associates who are contracted to do the port's payroll. McClure said they are reconciling daily receipts and bank statements, making bank deposits, and doing the accounts payable. Fleenor said this makes the Port compliant with Section 2, Item 8 on the SDAO Best Practices checklist.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution 1-15-14A Adopt a Supplemental Budget and Re-Appropriate Funds:** McClure said the port received a Matching Safety Grant from SDAO in the amount of \$2,940 to pay for a network video recorder and three security cameras, and was also awarded a grant from Business Oregon in the amount of \$9,600 to pay for bulkhead repair technical drawings. **On the Motion, made by Fleenor, and seconded by Cable, the board unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 1-15-14A.**
2. **Other items by Commission:**
 - There was discussion about holding board meetings every other month instead of every month. Fleenor proposed the idea since some meetings are not productive and he doesn't want to waste staff time. Cable and Duman were against the idea stating they felt out of touch by not having a December meeting. Fleenor said the board should establish goals. Duman said the new board members needed time to get familiar with

port business and meetings will become more productive. Fleenor asked for the topic to be on the February agenda since two commissioners were not present.

- There was discussion about starting a trade scholarship with Lane Community College. Forsythe asked the board to consider letting LCC students learning diesel mechanics to work on boats in the marina. Thorsen, from the audience, asked to speak and Duman gave permission. Thorsen said commercial fishermen should be given the same opportunity. Fleenor asked Forsythe to bring a proposal to the next meeting.
- Fleenor said there is interest from a local company to bring a fiber optic cable landing through the port owned PVIP property. Fleenor said he has interest in this company and may have a conflict of interest. Fleenor asked for an executive session to be scheduled next month. Fleenor said he wants the subject to be transparent, however at this stage there needs to be confidentiality due to competition.
- Duman asked Forsythe for an update on the fish buyer. Forsythe said Gunther is still working on starting a business in Florence but there is no solid plan yet. Duman said there are cash buyers buying smaller amounts of crab in Newport but it's so busy, boats have to wait to unload. There was discussion about bringing the boats and cash buyers to the Port of Siuslaw since the hoist is available and there is room to unload product. Thorsen, from the audience, said there is good fishing/crabbing just offshore and there are several boats out there now. Huntington, from the audience, cautioned that Siuslaw's bar can be hard to cross. Fleenor asked Thorsen how to market the Port of Siuslaw. Thorsen said the Port of Siuslaw has a bad image so we need to make them feel welcome, provide a scale and other equipment. Duman said cash buyers pay 5-6% to the Port of Newport and if we don't charge a percentage, they will come. Fleenor said the Port of Siuslaw needs to cover costs. Duman said he would give Forsythe a list of cash buyer contacts.

REPORTS

McClure asked the board to give monthly reports on their committee meeting assignments. Duman said he has not been to an Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association meeting yet. Fleenor said the Mapleton Commercial Owners Association do not have regular meetings. Cable said he is the alternate for the Chamber but has not been to a meeting since Forsythe attends. Forsythe said he attends the Chamber meetings, Lane County Transportation, Pacific NW Waterways Association, Pacific Coast Congress, Special Districts Association of Oregon, and Western Lane Emergency Operations Group. Forsythe said he plans to meet with Frannie Brindle, from ODOT, to discuss highway signage and training local authorities to open the Hwy 101 Bridge. Fleenor said SDAO conferences have good training sessions and encouraged all board members to attend. Forsythe said Caputo is planning to go and Fleenor said he'd like to attend also.

Vice-President Duman adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

President