

MINUTES

PORT OF SIUSLAW COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, 19 November 2014, 7:00pm

Port Office, 100 Harbor St, Florence OR 97439

ATTENDANCE:

Commission: Commissioner Ron Caputo (Caputo), Commissioner Nancy Rickard (Rickard), Commissioner Jay Cable (Cable), Commissioner Terry Duman (Duman), Commissioner Bill Fleenor (Fleenor);

Staff: Port Manager Robert Forsythe (Forsythe); Recording Secretary Dina McClure (McClure); Media: Alan Campbell

Audience: Jay Nefcy, Dwight Coon, David Huntington, Harlen Springer, Jeff Hale, Betty Edgerton

Commission President Caputo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.

PRESENTATION: Harlen Springer, with the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), had paper handouts for the board. Springer said he would be presenting three issues: 1) What do arts have to do with economic vitality? 2) What does FRAA have to do with arts and economic vitality? 3) How can the port and FRAA work together? Springer said it is proven that art brings additional money into a community and we need to attract cultural, artistic, and creative tourists. Springer said FRAA's vision is to make Florence an ultimate destination for the arts. Pictures of public art in Lake Oswego were distributed as well as handouts explaining how pedestals are built to support the art. Springer suggested adding artwork to the boardwalk fence and painting a mural on the blue building by the boat ramp. Springer said collaboration with local organizations to accomplish community goals and promoting a scenic and unique visitor destination are opportunities listed in the port's five year Strategic Business Plan. Springer asked for a resolution from the board to partner and financially assist FRAA for the public art program. Fleenor said the port could be supportive but is not able to financially contribute due to big projects ahead. The board suggested FRAA contact other entities such as the cities of Florence, Toledo, and Bandon. Betty Edgerton (FRAA Vice President), from the audience, requested the port's resolution be more of a partnership than just support in order to help with getting grants. The board said they would discuss the resolution at an upcoming meeting when they review the Strategic Business Plan and budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On the Motion, made by Fleenor, and seconded by Cable, the board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on 17 September 2014.

FINANCIALS: Fleenor made a Motion to ratify the bills paid in September of \$87,923.83 and in October of \$120,212.54 with comments. Cable seconded. Fleenor asked, and the board agreed, to add a Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison

report to the monthly financials. Fleenor said fuel sales should cover fuel expenses and asked for a cost analysis. Duman stressed the importance of providing a fuel service even if other revenue sources are needed to cover the expense. Fleenor expressed concern about using other revenue sources and said the port's financial status is in a "spiraling down trend". Forsythe disagreed and said revenues are increasing and the auditor is happy with the port's financial status. Fleenor said the port's finances are treading water and the port is not managing its assets to be sustainable long term. Forsythe said improvements and expansions have been made in addition to end of year profits. Fleenor asked why the grants and loans are on last year's Profit & Loss report. McClure said the auditors recommended putting all finances into one fund. Fleenor was pleased to see high occupancy numbers in the campground and marina. Cable said fishing was good and the entire community saw positive numbers this year. **The board voted in favor of approving the September and October financials.**

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discuss Dredging History:** Duman asked what dates the soundings were taken since winter tides make a difference in water depth. Forsythe said they were taken in November. (Discussion progressed to the next order of business)

2. **Resolution 11-19-14A Authorizing an OSMB Grant and Appropriating Funds:** Rickard said she attended a recent meeting with the Southern Ports Coalition and is in favor of moving forward with the dredging permit process. Rickard said permit cost will increase if the port passes up the opportunity to use grant funds. There were questions regarding the numbers on the resolution and McClure clarified the five year dredging permit would cost \$37,500 (\$28,125 being funded by the grant and \$9,375 funded by the port). Duman referred to the soundings report and said dredging is not needed. McClure showed a report from staff that showed a 4' to 10' water depth at low tide in the west marina. Duman asked how much it would cost to dredge. Forsythe said the board needs to decide on the grant for the dredging permit. McClure said dredging will be an item of discussion at the upcoming Strategic Business Plan meeting. Fleenor said approving the resolution is staying ahead of the problem in case dredging is needed in the future. Duman said having different soundings over a period of time would be more informative. **On the Motion made by Fleenor, and seconded by Rickard, the board voted four in favor (Fleenor, Rickard, Cable, Caputo) and one not in favor (Duman).**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Schedule Work Session for Strategic Business Plan Review:** The board scheduled a special meeting for Saturday, January 10th at 10am at the port office. This meeting will be open to the public.

REPORTS

Rickard attended a meeting in Bandon where the Southern Ports Coalition discussed using a state owned dredge. Rickard expressed concern that certain ports have offered their staff to operate it. Forsythe said the Coalition is in the process of drafting an intergovernmental agreement (IGA). Forsythe said the Coastal Caucus worked hard to get \$5M to purchase a dredge to share between the southern ports. Forsythe said he's concerned with who is in charge of operation, storage, transporting, and liability. Forsythe said he'd feel more comfortable if the state is in charge of it. Forsythe said he would share the IGA with the board when it becomes available.

Rickard said she attended the ODOT meeting for the bridge repair. Rickard said some businesses are concerned they will experience down time during construction. Rickard said the meeting was well attended and another meeting will be scheduled in March.

Rickard said the next Siuslaw Watershed Council will be December 3rd in Mapleton.

Caputo attended Lane Area Council Transportation meeting via conference call.

Caputo said the city has approved the conditional use permit for STEP's fish cleaning station and construction will start soon.

Caputo said he wrote a letter to ODFW regarding the lack of attendance of law enforcement. Caputo is concerned with the large amount of fish violation reports.

Duman asked the status of the floating restroom. Forsythe said the city declined the conditional use permit. Forsythe decided not to appeal the decision. He plans to re-apply with an upriver location.

President Caputo adjourned the regular meeting at 8:10pm to enter into Executive Session per ORS 192.220(2)(e).

President