AGENDA

PORT OF SIUSLAW COMMISSION MEETING

Mapleton High School, 10878 E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton, Oregon August 17, 2016 ● 7:00pm Regular Meeting

1	Call to Order	Caputo
2	Public Comment (limited to 15 minutes/5 minutes per speaker)	
3	Approval of Minutes by Consent	Caputo
4	Financial Statements by Consent	McClure
5	Capital Asset Report Update	Leskin
6	Resolution 8-17-16A Declaring Surplus Items	Leskin
7	Commissioner & Port Manager Reports	
8	Port News from around Oregon	Informational
9	Public Comment (limited to 15 minutes/5 minutes per speaker)	
10	Adjournment	Caputo
11	Executive Session Per ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Real Property, 1499 Bay Street Per ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Port Manager 6 Month Evaluation	

Up Coming Events:

September 21, 2016 7:00 Commission Meeting, Port of Siuslaw Conference Room



MINUTES

PORT OF SIUSLAW COMMISSION MEETING Wednesday, 20 July 2016, 7:00pm Port Office, 100 Harbor Street, Florence OR 97439

Commissioners Attending: Ron Caputo, Terry Duman, Nancy Rickard, Mike Buckwald;

Commissioners Absent: David Huntington

Staff Attending: Steven Leskin, Port Manager; Dina McClure, Administrative Assistant

- 1. Commission President Caputo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
- 2. Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- 3. **Approval of the Minutes by Consent:** (7:00:30) There were no comments from the board regarding the Minutes.
- 4. **Financial Statements by Consent:** (7:01:00) McClure said all appropriation categories were within budget for FY15-16. McClure said the port ended FY15-16 with \$121K more cash in the bank than a year ago. There were no questions from the board regarding the financial reports.
- 5. **Elect Officers:** (7:04:53) Commissioner Buckwald suggested the officers remain the same as last year (President Caputo, Vice President Duman, 2nd Vice President Rickard, Secretary Huntington, Treasurer Buckwald). Commissioner Rickard agreed.
- 6. **Approve Meeting Dates for FY16-17:** (7:05:58) The board approved the meeting dates for FY16-17. Commissioner Rickard said the August meeting would be in Mapleton.
- 7. Committee Assignments for FY16-17: (7:07:00) The board agreed to keep the assignments the same with the addition of Commissioner Rickard going to Lane Council of Governments and Commissioner Caputo going to the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce meetings.
- 8. Resolution 7-20-16A to Require Moorage Insurance: (7:09:10) Manager Leskin proposed the Port require indemnity, salvage, and pollution insurance for commercial and recreational boats. Discussion. On the Motion, made by Commissioner Duman, and seconded by Commissioner Buckwald, the board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 7-20-16A. Manager Leskin asked for approval of a transition period. On the Motion, made by Commissioner Rickard, and seconded by Commissioner Buckwald, the board voted in favor of Manager Leskin using a transitional period for moorage insurance requirements.

- 9. Resolution 7-20-16B Declaring Surplus Property: (7:18:52) Manager Leskin said the first step in selling Port property is to have the board declare it surplus. There was discussion about the current lease. Manager Leskin said if the property sells, the lease goes with it. On the Motion, made by Commissioner Rickard, and seconded by Commissioner Buckwald, the board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 7-20-16B.
- 10. Resolution 7-20-16C Authorizing Fuel Dock Repairs: (7:21:39) Manager Leskin said corrosion was found in fuel dock electrical lines, conduit and wire need to be replaced, and he received a bid for \$8,372. There was discussion about getting more than one bid. On the Motion, made by Commissioner Buckwald, and seconded by Commissioner Rickard, the board voted in favor of Resolution 7-20-16C Authorizing the Port Manager to repair the Fuel Dock electrical.
- **11. Commissioner and Manager Reports** (7:26:16)

Commissioner Rickard reported:

- Attended an Arnie Roblan Town Hall on June 27, and a Lane ACT lunch today.
- Thanked Manager Leskin and Port staff for a good 4th of July event and for the WindFest concerts and speakers.

Commissioner Caputo reported:

- Attended a Florence Chamber meeting.
- Distributed evaluation forms to the board for Manager Leskin's 6 month evaluation scheduled in executive session for August 17.

Manager Leskin reported:

- Nopal parking lot lights were replaced with LED's, Nopal and Harbor lots were resurfaced and restriped, and the floating restroom was installed on the river.
- The City is pursuing Florence to be designated as a USCG City. The USCG is holding Boater Safety classes at the Port.
- Attended a Derelict and Abandoned Vessel Task Force meeting with OSMB in Astoria and met with the Illwaco Tuna Club regarding sport fishing.
- C Row Erosion update: Jack Aiken has submitted an application to the COE and DSL for project approval.
- Connie Huntsman, a CPA from Coos Bay, was selected from the Audit RFP's to be the auditor for FY15-16.

Commissioner Duman asked about the striping for the trailer parking in the Nopal parking lot. Jeff Hale, from the audience, requested adding a second "Public Remarks" opportunity to the agenda at the end of each meeting. The board agreed.

Commission President Caputo adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.

Port of Siuslaw Balance Sheet As of July 31, 2016

	Jul 31, 16
ASSETS Current Assets	
Checking/Savings 1001 · BB Checking - General Fund 1003 · BB SAV - Capital Reserve 1005 · BB MMA - General Fund 1050 · BB MMA - ICM 1070 · Petty Cash	34,576.75 100,084.77 367,926.54 5,045.34 850.00
Total Checking/Savings	508,483.40
Other Current Assets 1220 · Accounts Receivable 1499 · Undeposited Funds	8,969.04 1,505.00
Total Other Current Assets	10,474.04
Total Current Assets	518,957.44
TOTAL ASSETS	518,957.44
LIABILITIES & EQUITY Liabilities Current Liabilities Accounts Payable 2000 · *Accounts Payable	19,112.39
Total Accounts Payable	19,112.39
Credit Cards 2021 · Port Credit Card 1 2022 · Port Credit Card 2	3,032.89 296.16
Total Credit Cards	3,329.05
Other Current Liabilities 2030 · Deposits Held 2040 · Gift Certificates 2045 · Unearned CG Revenue (Hercules) 2150 · Payroll related Liabilites	8,860.00 -327.00 122,478.09 265.19
Total Other Current Liabilities	131,276.28
Total Current Liabilities	153,717.72
Total Liabilities	153,717.72
Equity 3000 · Opening Bal Equity 3900 · *Retained Earnings Net Income	104,709.66 252,276.92 8,253.14
Total Equity	365,239.72
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	518,957.44

3:38 PM 08/16/16 Accrual Basis

Port of Siuslaw Profit & Loss by Class July 2016

	Capital Maintance Fund	General Fund	TOTAL
Income			
4140 · Campground Revenue	0.00	74,315.71	74,315.71
4150 · Leases	0.00	17,611.49	17,611.49
4160 · Moorage	0.00	8,354.68	8,354.68
4170 · Storage	0.00	2,113.09	2,113.09
4190 · Marine Fuel	0.00	4,132.40	4,132.40
4200 · Other Facility Income	0.00	2,356.51	2,356.51
4500 · Levied Taxes	0.00	437.51	437.51
4540 · Interest Income	0.00	22.25	22.25
4600 · Miscellaneous Income	0.00	1,094.92	1,094.92
4650 · Sale of Surplus Equipment	0.00	400.00	400.00
Total Income	0.00	110,838.56	110,838.56
Gross Profit	0.00	110,838.56	110,838.56
Expense			
5000 · Personal Services	0.00	34,856.18	34,856.18
5300 · Material and Services	0.00	37,194.86	37,194.86
6000 · Capital Outlay	19,072.00	32.95	19,104.95
7000 · Debt Service	0.00	13,099.85	13,099.85
Total Expense	19,072.00	85,183.84	104,255.84
Net Income	-19,072.00	25,654.72	6,582.72

	July 2016							
		Jul 16	VARIANCE	Annual Budget				
Income								
4140 · Campground R	evenue							
4141 · RV Sites- T		44,069.01	214,930.99	259,000.0				
4142 · RV Sites -N	lon Taxable	19,133.98	72,866.02	92,000.0				
4143 · RV Site - A	dd'I revenue	1,517.01	3,482.99	5,000.0				
4144 · Transient R	Room Tax	5,335.71	22,164.29	27,500.0				
4145 · Reservation	n Fees	4,260.00	12,240.00	16,500.0				
Total 4140 · Campgrou	und Revenue	74,315.71	325,684.29	400,000.0				
4150 · Leases			10.000.00					
- 	ease - 1499 Bay St	1,200.00	13,800.00	15,000.0				
	ease - 080A Harbor St	1,200.00	13,200.00	14,400.0				
4153 · Wharf lease		4,129.90	45,430.10	49,560.0				
4154 · Wharf lease		8,481.59	93,558.41	102,040.0				
4155 · Concession		2,500.00	6,500.00	9,000.0				
4156 · Docking Le	ease	100.00	-100.00	0.0				
Total 4150 · Leases		17,611.49	172,388.51	190,000.0				
4160 · Moorage								
4162 · Commercia	al Moorage	1,383.38	13,016.62	14,400.0				
4163 · Sport Moor	_	6,851.30	57,748.70	64,600.0				
4165 · Liveaboard		120.00	880.00	1,000.0				
Total 4160 · Moorage		8,354.68	71,645.32	80,000.0				
4170 · Storage	araga.	222.00	1,776.91	2,000,0				
4171 · Outside sto		1,890.00	16,110.00	2,000.0				
4172 · Indoor Stor	rage	2,113.09	17,886.91					
Total 4170 · Storage		2,113.09	17,000.91	20,000.0				
4190 · Marine Fuel								
4191 · Diesel		3,074.37	2,925.63	6,000.0				
4192 · Gas, Non-e	thanol	1,058.03	42,941.97	44,000.0				
Total 4190 · Marine Fu	el	4,132.40	45,867.60	50,000.0				
4200 · Other Facility In	ncome							
4210 · Parking Inc	come	849.76	11,150.24	12,000.0				
4220 - Dump Stati	on Fees	90.00	3,910.00	4,000.0				
4230 · Gazebo Re	ntal	25.00	-25.00	0.0				
4240 · Vending Sa	ales		0.00					
4242 · Boat F	lush	71.50	908.50	980.0				
4243 · Laund	ry	827.25	4,872.75	5,700.0				
4244 · Soap/E	Bleach	28.00	172.00	200.0				
4245 · Tidebo	ooks	12.00	108.00	120.0				
Total 4240 · Vend	ing Sales	938.75	6,061.25	7,000.0				

	July 2016								
	Jul 16	VARIANCE	Annual Budget						
4050 Facility & Hairy	75.00	475.00	050.00						
4250 · Forklift & Hoist	75.00	175.00	250.00						
4252 · Seafood Seller Permits	200.00	-100.00	100.00						
4253 · Charter/Guide Permit 4270 · Retail Sales	100.00	0.00	150.00						
	0.00	50.00	50.00						
4271 · Mugs	118.00	732.00	50.00						
4272 · Clothing Sales	11000	1000	850.0						
4273 · 2 Cycle Oil	0.00	50.00	50.0						
4274 · Pins	12.00	38.00	50.0						
Total 4270 · Retail Sales	130.00	870.00	1,000.00						
4300 · Cash Over/Short	-52.00	52.00	0.00						
Total 4200 · Other Facility Income	2,356.51	22,143.49	24,500.0						
4500 ⋅ Levied Taxes									
4510 · Current Levied Taxes	226.52	279,773.48	280,000.0						
4520 · Prior Years Levied Taxes	169.87	3,830.13	4,000.0						
4525 · Levied Tax Interest	41.12	-41.12	0.0						
Total 4500 · Levied Taxes	437.51	283,562.49	284,000.0						
4540 · Interest Income	22.25	477.75	500.00						
4550 · Maintenance Assistance Program	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00						
4600 · Miscellaneous Income									
4610 · Reimbursement Income	973.42	-973.42	0.0						
4615 · Late Fees	109.50	-109.50	0.0						
4625 · Other Income	12.00	9,988.00	10,000.0						
Total 4600 · Miscellaneous Income	1,094.92	8,905.08	10,000.0						
4650 · Sale of Surplus Equipment	400.00	-400.00	0.00						
Total Income	110,838.56	967,161.44	1,078,000.00						
Gross Profit	110,838.56	967,161.44	1,078,000.00						
Expense									
5000 · Personal Services									
5020 · Port Manager	5,208.34	59,791.66	65,000.0						
5030 · Administrative Assistant	3,426.72	37,068.28	40,495.0						
5036 · Project Coordinator	0.00	29,246.00	29,246.0						
5045 · Services Lead	2,617.20	27,342.80	29,960.0						
5061 · Campground Staff	1,475.21	11,364.79	12,840.0						
5075 · Maintenance I Lead	3,686.00	40,544.00	44,230.0						
5076 · Maintenance II	2,817.05	29,024.95	31,842.0						
5077 · Maintenance III	1,816.08	21,654.92	23,471.0						
5078 · Groundskeeper	899.78	28,109.22	29,009.0						

	July 2016		
	Jul 16	VARIANCE	Annual Budget
5110 · Payroll taxes	1,962.61	29,257.39	31,220.00
5180 · Health Insurance	3,600.02	45,702.98	49,303.00
5181 · Life Insurance	15.05	1,484.95	1,500.00
5182 · Dental Insurance	349.85	4,180.15	4,530.00
5190 · Workers Compensation Insurance	6,952.57	1,047.43	8,000.00
5251 · Applicant Expenses	29.70	124.30	154.00
5270 · Retirement	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
5275 · Compensated absences	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
5280 · Overtime	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total 5000 · Personal Services	34,856.18	378,943.82	413,800.00
5300 · Material and Services			
5260 · Employee Training	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
5310 · Grant Expenses	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
5340 · Advertising	200.00	11,800.00	12,000.00
5345 · Web Site	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
5350 · Office Supplies	263.13	2,736.87	3,000.00
5360 · Operation Supplies		,	
5361 · Safety Supplies	0.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
5362 · Vehicle fuel	151.50	1,648.50	1,800.00
5360 · Operation Supplies - Other	604.17	8,995.83	9,600.00
Total 5360 · Operation Supplies	755.67	14,244.33	15,000.00
5370 · Marine Fuel			
5371 · Non-ethanol Gas	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
5372 · Diesel	2,091.90	7,908.10	10,000.00
Total 5370 · Marine Fuel	2,091.90	42,908.10	45,000.00
Total 3370 · Mainle i dei	2,091.90	42,900.10	43,000.00
5410 · Audit	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
5420 · Accounting Service	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
5430 · Legal Services	1,455.50	3,544.50	5,000.00
5435 · Legal Publications	39.15	-39.15	0.00
5436 · Cost of Retail Items	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5450 · Insurance - General	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
5470 · Contracted Services	2,964.69	10,035.31	13,000.00
5510 · Travel & Meeting Expense	779.99	9,220.01	10,000.00
5520 · Dues/Subscriptions	2,245.58	14,754.42	17,000.00
5530 · Public Relations	466.00	3,034.00	3,500.00
5540 · Events	100.00	2,3033	3,233.00
5544 · Wind Fest	2,652.98	347.02	3,000.00
Total 5540 · Events	2,652.98	347.02	3,000.00
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	_,552.00	3.1.02	3,000.00
5550 · Telephone Expense	630.05	8,369.95	9,000.00
5610 · Property Taxes	0.00	14,000.00	14,000.00
oo.oopony rakoo	5.00	. 4,000.00	1-7,000.00

	July 2016		
	Jul 16	VARIANCE	Annual Budget
5620 · Transient Room Tax	4,410.95	20,589.05	25,000.00
5700 · Facilities	6,788.41	43,211.59	50,000.00
5701 · MAP Repairs	543.51	13,456.49	14,000.00
5730 · Tool & Equipment Purchase	114.95	2,885.05	3,000.00
5750 · Equipment Rental	91.00	8,909.00	9,000.00
5790 · Equipment Repairs	2,162.00	5,838.00	8,000.00
5800 · Utilities			
5810 · Electric	1,964.06	38,035.94	40,000.00
5820 · Water/Sewer	2,407.81	29,592.19	32,000.00
5830 · Trash Service	0.00	21,000.00	21,000.00
5840 · TV Cable	2,121.27	24,878.73	27,000.00
5870 · Sani-Star dump fee	150.00	-150.00	0.00
Total 5800 · Utilities	6,643.14	113,356.86	120,000.00
5900 · State Lease Fees	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
5940 · Election Expense	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
5950 · Miscellaneous			
5953 · Online Transaction Fees	35.10	1,164.90	1,200.00
5954 · Bank CC Charges	1,307.63	11,992.37	13,300.00
5955 · Employee Clothing	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
5950 · Miscellaneous - Other	150.00	2,850.00	3,000.00
Total 5950 · Miscellaneous	1,492.73	18,007.27	19,500.00
Total 5300 - Material and Services	36,791.33	446,208.67	483,000.00
6000 · Capital Outlay			
6130 · Land			
6138 · Nopal Parking Lot	17,610.00	-17,610.00	0.00
6139 · Harbor Parking Lot	1,462.00	-1,462.00	0.00
Total 6130 · Land	19,072.00	-19,072.00	0.00
6170 · Marine Facilities			
6178 · Floating Restroom	32.95	-32.95	0.00
Total 6170 · Marine Facilities	32.95	-32.95	0.00
Total 6000 · Capital Outlay	19,104.95	-19,104.95	0.00
6700 · Contingency	0.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
7000 - Debt Service			
7215 · MNIF (Dredging) #524016	0.00	5,880.00	5,880.0
7216 · PRLF (MSLTD) #525186	11,599.93	34,800.07	46,400.00
7225 · Banner Bank (PVIP) 1000214241	1,499.92	16,500.08	18,000.0
7230 · PRLF Loan (Wharf) #525196	0.00	29,950.00	29,950.00
7270 · SPWF (Bdwk Prj) L0004	0.00	15,970.00	15,970.00

2:21 PM 08/11/16 Accrual Basis

			T		July 2016			
					Jul 16		VARIANCE	Annual Budget
		Total 7000 · Debt Service		13,099.8	5	103,100.15	116,200.00	
	Total Expense		103,852.3	1	1,009,147.69	1,113,000.00		
Net	Income				6,986.2	5	-41,986.25	-35,000.00

3:39 PM 08/16/16 Accrual Basis

Port of Siuslaw Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison July 2016

	Jul 16	Jul 15	\$ Change	% Change
Income				
4140 · Campground Revenue	74,315.71	70,482.65	3,833.06	5.4%
4150 · Leases	17,611.49	17,448.10	163.39	0.9%
4160 · Moorage	8,354.68	8,392.52	-37.84	-0.5%
4170 · Storage	2,113.09	2,762.16	-649.07	-23.5%
4190 · Marine Fuel	4,132.40	4,352.52	-220.12	-5.1%
4200 · Other Facility Income	2,356.51	4,080.17	-1,723.66	-42.2%
4500 · Levied Taxes	437.51	1,724.82	-1,287.31	-74.6%
4515 · State Forest Sales	0.00	4,296.57	-4,296.57	-100.0%
4540 · Interest Income	22.25	13.58	8.67	63.8%
4600 · Miscellaneous Income	1,094.92	6,545.74	-5,450.82	-83.3%
4650 · Sale of Surplus Equipment	400.00	0.00	400.00	100.0%
4840 · Grants	0.00	25,381.99	-25,381.99	-100.0%
Total Income	110,838.56	145,480.82	-34,642.26	-23.8%
Gross Profit	110,838.56	145,480.82	-34,642.26	-23.8%
Expense				
5000 · Personal Services	34,856.18	54,578.23	-19,722.05	-36.1%
5300 · Material and Services	37,194.86	46,797.12	-9,602.26	-20.5%
6000 · Capital Outlay	19,104.95	0.00	19,104.95	100.0%
7000 · Debt Service	13,099.85	20,464.21	-7,364.36	-36.0%
Total Expense	104,255.84	121,839.56	-17,583.72	-14.4%
Net Income	6,582.72	23,641.26	-17,058.54	-72.2%

	Campground 2013/2014		Campground 2014/2015		Campground 2015/2016			Campground 2016/2017				
	% Occ.	YTD %	Nights	% Occ.	YTD %	Nights	% Occ.	YTD %	Nights	% Occ.	YTD %	Nights
JULY	61%	61%	1989	72%	72%	2318	79%	79%	2448	74%	74%	2314
AUG	84%	73%	2728	90%	81%	2890	91%	85%	2812			
SEPT	83%	76%	2619	90%	84%	2795	88%	86%	2651			
ОСТ	38%	67%	1242	45%	74%	1462	49%	77%	1527			
NOV	18%	57%	567	24%	64%	753	26%	67%	770			
DEC	17%	50%	550	23%	57%	748	17%	58%	514			
JAN	26%	47%	860	29%	53%	920	20%	53%	621			
FEB	25%	44%	734	34%	51%	939	22%	49%	634			
MAR	27%	42%	875	39%	50%	1211	23%	46%	729			
APR	29%	41%	910	38%	48%	1134	28%	44%	838			
MAY	34%	40%	1100	37%	47%	1130	36%	44%	1132			
JUN	39%	40%	1210	45%	47%	1362	46%	44%	1396			-
TL YTD	40%	40%	15384	47%	47%	17662	44%	44%	16072		_	_
REV YTD \$350,021		_	_	\$408,911	_	_	\$424,844	_		\$73,758		

Hike	r/Biker 201	5/16	2016/17	
	Guest	\$	Guest	\$
JULY	51	\$677	31	\$388
AUG	27	\$372		
SEPT	19	\$346		
ОСТ	26	\$326		
NOV	2	\$16		
DEC	2	\$24		
JAN	6	\$88		
FEB	1	\$8		
MAR	0	\$0		
APR	9	\$88		
MAY	13	\$136		
JUN	21	\$256		
Total	177	\$2,337		

	Mod	orage 2015	5/16	Moorage 2016/17			
	% Occ.	YTD %	Nights	% Occ.	YTD %	Nights	
JULY	45%	45%	1669	41%	41%	1528	
AUG	71%	58%	2635				
SEPT	95%	70%	3394				
ОСТ	75%	72%	2752				
NOV	32%	64%	1132				
DEC	31%	58%	1140				
JAN	31%	54%	1144				
FEB	31%	51%	1052				
MAR	31%	49%	1153				
APR	30%	47%	1058				
MAY	31%	46%	1157				
JUN	35%	45%	1260			·	
TL YTD	45%	42%	19546				
REV YTD		\$102,520		\$8,740			

Port of Siuslaw Resolution 8-17-16A A Resolution to Declare Surplus Property

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners may declare unused equipment or materials as "surplus" if it is not needed for public use; and

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby finds that the following items are not needed for public use and are surplus, and further authorizes the Port Manager to dispose of the items in the manner that is most advantageous to the Port of Siuslaw;

Item #	Description
1	Cyclo Mop
2	Bearcat brush cutter
3	Paulen push mower
4	20'x20' pop-up tent w/sides
5	cement mixer
6	medium size crab block
7	small flopper stoppers
8	pallet of used red brick
9	sewer access tube & lid
10	fiberglass boat
11	Edimax HD Wi-Fi outdoor camera
12	Ubiquiti Nano Station Router
13	Ubiquiti Pico Station

Approved and adopted by the Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners on the 17th day of August 2016.

Ву:
Ron Caputo, Commission President
Attest:
David Huntington, Commission Secretary



Editorial: Doing it for the home team

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The Port of Astoria Commission is a reliable source of entertainment for many of our readers. Our reports on these charades would be funny if they weren't so costly.

The events described by Edward Stratton in the July 26 edition are the latest installment. Faced with an urgent state of Oregon demand to improve its stormwater disposition, the Port needed to move ahead with a solution.

In picking a contractor for the job, Conway Construction was the low bidder. However, Conway had omitted a key element of the job in its bid. But even when that was added in, Conway was well under the bid from Big River Construction. Conway is based in Ridgefield, Washington, while Big River is Astoria-based.

A majority of the commission favored the low bidder. But as Stratton reported, "Commissioners Stephen Fulton and Bill Hunsinger called foul on Conway Construction's contract, saying the company had been unfairly allowed to fix omissions in its initial bid to the detriment of Big River.

"Fulton said the Port should discuss the issue more, adding he doesn't think Conway is qualified if they didn't already know about groundwater issues."

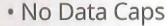
After the Port's lawyer assured the commission that readjusting a bid in light of new information is legal, commissioners voted 3-2 to contract with Conway.

Self-dealing and cronyism are the bane of all ports, but it has run especially deep in the culture of the Port of Astoria. It is widely understood that Hunsinger is on the Port Commission to represent the interests of the longshore union and that Fulton represents his employer, Martin Nygaard. There is nothing illegal about that, so long as commissioners declare their conflicts of interest. But there is a larger detriment to Fulton's and Hunsinger's myopic approach. It effectively takes two commissioners out of the line-up. Instead of playing a role in setting larger policy, these two operate by a different playbook. That appeared to be the case in this most recent incident.

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