

MINUTES
PORT OF SIUSLAW COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
 Wednesday, 17 March 2010

Commission President Greene called the Regular Meeting of the Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Port office conference room located at 1499 Bay Street, Florence, Lane County, Oregon.

ATTENDANCE: Commission: Commissioner Joshua Greene (Greene), Commissioner Bud Saulsgiver (Saulsgiver); Commissioner John Scott (Scott), Commissioner John Buchanan (Buchanan); Commissioner Sally Owens (Owens); Staff: Port Manager Mark Freeman (Freeman), Recording Secretary Dina McClure (McClure). Audience: Brien Mill, Dick Slaugh, John Rickaby, Ryan Cronk of the Siuslaw News, Allen Campbell of Campbell Productions.

MINUTES: Scott and Buchanan were absent last meeting and abstained approval of the Minutes. **On the MOTION made by Saulsgiver, seconded by Greene, the Minutes of 17 February, 2010, were approved as submitted.**

REMARKS FROM CITIZENS/GROUPS: None.

Financials: Freeman stated costs related to Boardwalk grass seeding project, and payment of the health insurance premium. Freeman added he met with the insurance agent today and premiums will increase 12% next year. Options are being explored. The interest payment was made to Siuslaw Bank for the 40 acres. Greene referred to the balloon payment in 3 years. Scott and Buchanan hope property will be sold by then. Freeman plans to meet with commercial real estate agents in Portland. Greene added when the city completes the marketing packet for their industrial parcels, this property will be included. Scott asked about the PUD charge for Herman Peak tower and McClure said it was an annual fee. **On the Motion, made by Scott, seconded by Buchanan, the Board unanimously voted to ratify payment of bills listed in the amount of \$50,477.47.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1) **Ice Machine:** Freeman stated there is a work session planned Tuesday with Mike McKenzie-Bahr to discuss the final distribution of funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) **Appoint Port of Siuslaw Commissioner to fill vacancy:** Greene explained the process. Each applicant had a different background and good qualifications and the Port thanks them for their interest. Four applicants were chosen to interview. The interview questions pointed towards responsibilities and talents in reference to serving the Port. Sally Owens background and knowledge of the river, her family history, her initiative and work experience showed the right mix for what the Commissioners were looking for. Greene had Sally come forward and take the oath of office for the Port of Siuslaw Commissioner.

2) **Enterprise Zone Application:** Freeman stated that after 10 years, the application is up for renewal and the deadline is April 3rd. Renewal of this application is advantageous to attract businesses to Florence. Having fiber optic cable capability and connectivity creates opportunity for a variety of businesses that would drive a more diverse base of an economy beyond tourism. We are competing with other areas in the

western US and anything we can do to make this town more attractive to business is a good tool. Buchanan mentioned the tax exemption issue but added the importance of maintaining the Enterprise Zone to keep a competitive edge. Greene stated the boardwalk property, the old school and ball field would be added into the Enterprise Zone, hotel/motel opportunities will be included into the industrial section, and the tax exemption would be for 3 years. Jacque Morgan has put together a nice packet including pictures for the presentation. If the City or the Port get business interest, it will be to each other's advantage to work together. Scott asked if the Port office was included and Greene said he would check to make sure it is. **On the Motion, made by Scott, seconded by Buchanan, the Board unanimously voted to approve Resolution #03-17-10A authorizing the submission of the application for the designation of the Florence Enterprise Zone.**

3) Other items by Commission:

a) Urban Renewal Beautification Funding: Scott referred to the recent authorization of Urban Renewal funds for improvements in Old Town. Since the Port provides the Boardwalk and Nopal St parking lot at no charge to the City, the Port might qualify for some of these funds and should apply. Buchanan asked Greene if the underground water system in Old Town was a priority project for the Urban Renewal. Greene said it is a priority but the UR has not received enough of a tax base to get a large bond to cover the work. The present mind set is to wait until there are enough funds to bury the electric and fix the sidewalks when the work is being done to improve the water system. Scott suggested using UR funding for better signage. Greene said to put in a proposal. The "beautification" funding includes street lamps, fixing benches, upgrading buildings to name a few. If request is over 5K and a land owner wants to do a large project, the funding is a 50/50 match. Scott mentioned the Port just spent close to 5K for the leveling and re-seeding the boardwalk grass and projects like this could qualify for UR funding. Freeman said we have a number of projects that would qualify. Greene suggested to start a list for review.

b) Fireworks Ban in Old Town: Scott brought up the subject of the City's ban of personal fireworks in Old Town. Buchanan clarified the City semi-approved the ban. There will be another meeting to finalize the decision. Scott said the issue of the fireworks has been an ongoing problem. Not only is there the expense of repair and cleanup, a lot of people were staying away due to the illegal fireworks, smoke, and safety issues. It was also a problem with the marina and boat owners. Buchanan expressed concern, from an enforcement officer standpoint, on the inability to enforce the use of illegal fireworks unless there is a ban, and the safety issue with children. There remains the question of where the perimeter of the "zone" of the ban is. Greene stated the Port has given their recommendation to the City regarding the ban and it is now up to the City to decide. Scott said the Port Commissioners patrolled the boardwalk last year and the response from the people enjoying the display was all positive regarding the ban on Port property.

c) Business opportunities: Greene talked about the increasing popularity of the organic and hydroponic agriculture industry. It would be worth looking into for not only Port property but private property upriver. It has become a huge industry and there is a lot of support in Lane County for these projects. Not only would

it be a positive step environmentally, it would provide jobs. We should take a look at our property and consider partnerships with private owners.

d) Shoreline clean-up: Scott received a comment from a citizen who expressed concern over some small pieces of Styrofoam at the high water mark and up around the gear storage. After checking into it, the Styrofoam looks to be waterborne. Scott stated that Freeman has arranged for a crew from Camp Florence to arrive Friday to do some general clean up so they can clean it up while they are here.

e) F Dock update: Freeman stated the replacement of F Dock will be finished at the end of this month. Staff has worked hard to marry different manufactured docks and will eventually replace all wooden docks with concrete docks.

f) Arial photography: Greene plans to contact Ave Bernard to schedule arial photography. This project is grant funded and they have been waiting for good weather to do it.

g) Meetings: Saulsgiver attended the LCOG meeting. They are discussing strategy to create 20K jobs by the year 2020. Buchanan is supportive of LCOG and Scott agreed they are very helpful to small governments. Greene added they prioritize and make recommendations of what the surrounding counties grants might be best suited for. Saulsgiver will continue to attend these meetings.

Reports: Freeman has been attending the ODFW sponsored Marine Reserves meetings. The next meeting will be in Florence April 12th. If this group establishes a Marine Reserve in the Cape Perpetua area there will be no fishing in the Reserve. Figures show that 6 million dollars worth of crabbing is done in this area alone. Many different representatives are attending and it will conclude in October. Greene asked what was the proposed footprint for the Reserve? Freeman stated a maximum of 3 miles east/west and a maximum of 14 miles north/south, but the size is still being discussed. Saulsgiver is concerned that fishing jobs will be lost. Greene likes the idea of having a reserve but doesn't want to devastate the economic use of the territory. He referred to Port Orford and Depoe Bay and how they made it work and got the footprint smaller. He asked Mark, as a representative, to keep bringing that up. Saulsgiver said some of these groups forget to tell everyone that there is already a marine protected area from the 3 mile mark out to 130 fathoms, from the Canadian border to the Mexican border to protect rockfish. Freeman added that right off Cape Perpetua is sandy bottom and prime crabbing grounds. Saulsgiver said he is not against reserves, some have been done right, but the proposed size of this project is concerning. Greene agreed and stated that in order to scale the size down there needs to be education and input, and the final size might come down to what can be funded.

Greene asked for a review of the Asian recruiters visit last month. Freeman stated he was a part of a forum sponsored by the OEDA and Business Oregon for the Asian and European recruiters for the State of Oregon. They had never been to Florence so he invited them to visit. When they arrived, he gave them a tour of the Port, the Pacific View Business Park and the City. He emphasized the importance of marketing our property and area in hopes of economic development.

ADJOURNMENT: Greene adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

President