

PORT OF NEWPORT MINUTES

July 25, 2017

Special Commission Meeting & Executive Session

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Walter Chuck called the Special Meeting of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners to order at 12:00 noon at the South Beach Activities Room, 2120 SE Marine Science Dr., Newport OR.

Commissioners Present: Walter Chuck (Pos. #1), President; Jeff Lackey (Pos. #4); Patricia Patrick-Joling (Pos. #5), Secretary/Treasurer; Stewart Lamerdin (Pos. #3); and Sara Skamser (Pos. #2).

Management and Staff: Aaron Bretz, Interim General Manager.

Members of the Public and Media: Pete Gintner, Esq.; Kiera Morgan, KYTE Radio; Dennis Anstine, Newport News-Times; Bill Anderson, SDAO; Patrick Trapp; Heather Mann, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative; Steve Beck; Pat Ruddiman, ILWU; Cheryl Harle, BOSS Radio; and Dietmar Goebel, Newport City Council.

A motion was made by Patrick-Joling and seconded by Lamerdin to enter into Executive Session. The motion passed 5 -0.

Chuck announced that the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners would meet in Executive Session pursuant to *ORS 192.660(2)(f)* and *ORS 192.660(2)(h)*, which allow the Commission to meet in Executive Session *to consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by law, including written advice from the port's attorney, and to consult with the port's attorney regarding legal rights and duties in regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed*, respectively.

Representatives of the news media and designated staff shall be allowed to attend the Executive Session. All other members of the audience are asked to leave the room. Attorney Pete Gintner was invited to attend the Executive Session. Representatives of the news media were specifically directed not to report on or otherwise disclose any of the deliberations or anything said about these subjects during the Executive Session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No decision would be made in Executive Session.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commission President Walter Chuck called an Executive Session of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners to order at 12:07 pm at the South Beach Activities Room, 2120 SE Marine Science Dr, Newport, OR, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(F) to consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by law, including written advice from the port's attorney, and 192.660(2)(H) to consult with the port's attorney regarding legal rights and duties in regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed.

Commissioners Present: Walter Chuck (Pos. #1), President; Jeff Lackey (Pos. #4); Patricia Patrick-Joling (Pos. #5), Secretary/Treasurer; Stewart Lamerdin (Pos. #3); and Sara Skamser (Pos. #2).

Management and Staff: Aaron Bretz, Interim General Manager.

Members of the Public and Media: Pete Gintner, Esq.; Kiera Morgan, KYTE Radio; Dennis Anstine, Newport News-Times.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Patrick-Joling and seconded by Skamser to end the Executive Session. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Executive Session was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

III. SPECIAL MEETING

Commission President Walter Chuck reconvened the Special Commission Meeting of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners at 12:16 pm at the South Beach Activities Room, 2120 SE Marine Science Dr., Newport OR, 97365

IV. APPROVE SEVERANCE PACKAGE

A motion was made by Patrick-Joling and seconded by Skamser to authorize Chuck to sign the severance package for Kevin Greenwood. The motion passed 5 – 0.

IV. CONSIDER PRESS RELEASE

Patrick-Joling suggested keeping any press release short and sweet, and include no comment on personnel. Lamerdin suggested considering providing context for the public, and that comment on some level is appropriate. He asked whether the public might have more questions on what happened if there was no information in the release. Walter added that with an abrupt change, some content is appropriate. Patrick-Joling said that if there is a need to release beyond minimal comments, it would be best to consult with the Port lawyer. Skamser said she believed the action was self-explanatory. Chuck asked if two Commissioners would work with Greenwood's lawyer and Gintner for some common ground.

V. NEXT STEPS FORWARD WITH SDAO

Bill Anderson from the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) suggested that on a fast track it would take 4– 5 months to have a permanent replacement for General Manager. For interim services he suggested the Port's needs are very specific and that SDAO could be retained to assist if the Port so decided. SDAO does not have a lot of resumes that are Port-specific. SDAO would be able to help select and interim manager by way of a consensus exercise. Lamerdin asked about interim candidates. Anderson asked to consider an internal candidate as a first step before moving forward. Patrick-Joling asked what would be discussed in executive vs. open session. Chuck stated that the ORS say that most business should be discussed in open session. Anderson said that SDAO advises that it is the smartest strategy to talk about candidates in open session. Patrick-Joling asked Gintner how it would be best to re-set the Board's direction without leaking too much information to the public. She suggested posting for a pro-tem interim manager. Gintner suggested that the Commission may be talking about revamping their entire position and might need an interim manager because of the long term changes. Chuck suggested a specific meeting/executive session to discuss an interim arrangement. Anderson suggested reviewing the General Manager's job description. Lamerdin proposed considering interim candidates to cover the gap. Anderson said there are talented people available for an interim position but the Port would still need to shop the job. Patrick-Joling said there is a need for an executive session to define the job description of a pro-tem manager. Chuck said that Bretz is doing a fine job and that the Commission needs to iron out the scope of work quickly. A Special Meeting/Executive Session will be scheduled for Monday, July 31st. SDAO will provide components for a permanent position.


VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Harle said she would like to speak on behalf of Greenwood, and asked whether he had committed a crime. She said that Greenwood loved his position and deserved to be respected. She suggested the Commission could sit down and work it out.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm.

ATTESTED:



Patricia Patrick-Joling, President



Stewart Lamerdin, Secretary/Treasurer

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