

**PORT OF NEWPORT MINUTES**

Monday, 4 June 2018

Special Commission Meeting & Executive Session

*This is not an exact transcript. The audio of the session is available on the Port’s website.*

**Agenda Item**

**Audio  
Time**  
0:00

**I. CALL TO ORDER .....**

Commission Vice-President Pro-Tempore Sara Skamser called the Special Commission Meeting of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners to order at 12:00 pm at the South Beach Activities Room, 2120 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, Oregon.

**Commissioners Present:** Walter Chuck (Pos. #1), Secretary/Treasurer Pro-Tempore; Sara Skamser (Pos. #2), Vice President Pro-Tempore; and Jeff Lackey (Pos. #4). Stewart Lamerdin (Pos. #3), President Pro-Tempore, attended by phone (\*see note on page 2).

**Management and Staff:** Doug Parsons, General Manager; Aaron Bretz, Director of Operations; Pete Gintner, Port Attorney; and Karen Hewitt, Administrative Supervisor.

**Members of the Public and Media:** Yale Fogarty; Jim Cline, Rogue; Kiera Morgan, KYTE/KNPT; Jim Burke; Steve Beck; Hali Boyd, Grays Harbor Historical Seaport.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

**III. FILLING OF COMMISSION VACANCY POSITION NO. 5**

**A. Review Letters of Interest .....**

0:17

Skamser thanked the candidates and commented that letters of interest had been provided to the Commissioners previously and had already been reviewed.

**B. Interview Candidates**

**1. James Burke (Yale Fogarty left the room) .....**

1:30

Burke said he did not have a prepared statement and referred to his Letter of Interest and completed Questionnaire. He added he had done some reading and had caught up on Commission Meetings. He said he was a fan and friend of the Port, which had amazing resources. He commented that he appreciated the time that staff and the Commission gave to the Port. He wanted to help the Port move forward; there was some talk in the community about concerns they had. He felt the Port’s mission was wonderful and he would be proud to be a part of that. He referred to the Port’s vision statement and its call for optimism, and commented that the optimistic future of the Port was key in talking to the public. He has been working with Port staff in the past to find solutions to complicated mitigation issues. In response to Chuck’s question, Burke confirmed it was his intention to run for the office at the end of this position’s term. Lackey asked what lessons he had learned from previous board

experience. Burke spoke to the importance of a strategic plan, goal setting, and recognizing the need for flexibility.

10:27

2. Yale Fogarty (James Burke left the room).....

Fogarty said he did not have a prepared statement. He said he was born and raised in Newport, was extremely familiar with the Port, and had formed a lot of relationships with Port staff, users and others. He added he was deeply involved with the Port since 2006 and has attended many recent Commission meetings, so would be able to get up to speed quickly. He felt he could bring fresh ideas to the Port and get some things moving forward. He said that NIT has been a focus for the last several years and the Port needs to go back to address its other neglected facilities. He expressed appreciation for the Commission and their service to the community. In response to Chuck’s questions, Fogarty said he would be willing to run for election when the current term expired. Lackey asked what lessons he had learned from previous board experience. Fogarty said it was important to communicate with users and prioritize. He commented that the Port was facing deep issues and he would work to mend fences among stakeholders and move forward.

18:30

C. Deliberation.....

The Commissioners discussed the process for appointing the Commissioner to fill the vacant position with Gintner. Lackey expressed thanks to Burke and Fogarty for volunteering, and said he was impressed with both their written and oral statements; a person serves on the Port Commission because they love the community. Chuck said he looked forward to working with either one of them.

36:39

(\*Lamerdin joined the meeting by phone).....

Skamser advised Lamerdin that the Commission had heard from the candidates, and asked Lamerdin if he had any questions. He recommended that whoever was chosen be appointed at the meeting on 26 June to allow time to get up to speed and have some SDAO training. Lamerdin commented that he appreciated both candidate’s willingness to serve, and they were both great candidates.

Skamser called for a vote to recommend an appointment to fill the vacant Commission Position #5. The Commissioners present voted by written and signed ballot.

James Burke was recommended by a vote of 3 – 0, with Chuck, Skamser, and Lackey all choosing Burke as candidate.

40:53

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**.....

Hali Boyd said she appreciated the opportunity to speak, and provided a handout from Grays Harbor Historical Seaport (GHHS), which has been posted as a Meeting Packet Supplement. She said she had listened to the Commissioners taped conversation about the Tall Ships and there were unanswered questions. She wanted to see if there were options before making alternative plans, after GHHS received notice on May 30<sup>th</sup> that their Special Use Permit was being “revoked”. She stated that cancelation of the event would be financially catastrophic for GHHS. She hoped to find a solution. Boyd said she would be at the City Council meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> and would stay as long as needed to explore options. Lamerdin commented that the Commission was interested in having the ships come to Newport, but they would need to look at modifying the date or alternative dockage. If the Commission had known earlier, they would have recommended the shoulder season.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION .....

**A motion was made by Chuck and seconded by Lackey to enter into Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) & (h), 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 the Port’s legal rights and duties in regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed, respectively. No decisions would be made in Executive Session. The motion passed 3 - 0.**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

ATTESTED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stewart Lamerdin, President  
Pro-Tempore

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter Chuck, Secretary/Treasurer  
Pro-Tempore