

PORT OF NEWPORT MINUTES

June 25, 2018

Commission Special Meeting

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

Agenda Item

Audio Time

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Pro-Tempore Stewart Lamerdin called the Special Commission Meeting of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners to order at 6:01 pm at the South Beach Activities Room, 2120 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, Oregon.

0:00

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

Management and Staff: Doug Parsons, General Manager; Aaron Bretz, Director of Operations; Mark Harris, Accounting Supervisor; Pete Gintner, Port Attorney; and Becca Bishop, Accounting Clerk.

Members of the Public and Media: Don Moon, International Terminal Supervisor; Dennis Anstine, Newport News-Times; Jennifer Stevenson, Newport Fishermen’s Wives; Taunette Dixon, Newport Fishermen’s Wives; Robert Smith, fisherman; Stephen Webster, Siletz Boat Works Inc.; Mark Collson, Budget Committee; Heather Mann, Midwater Trawlers’ Cooperative (MTC); Mike Storey, F/V Pegasus; Mark Cooper, F/V Leslie Lee; Clint Funderburg, Pelagic Fisheries; Steve Beck, Newport resident; Dan Kamikawa, NOAA; Kiera Morgan, KYTE/KNPT Radio; Jim Burke; Richard Wood; Dietmar Goebel, Newport City Council; and Mike Sorenson.

II. DISCUSS THE GENERAL MANAGER’S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Lamerdin introduced the meeting saying the purpose of the meeting was to allow the Commission to express concerns about the General Manager’s performance and/or consider options related to continued employment. An option could be early termination of the General Manager’s contract, and the General Manager could opt to have this discussion in Executive Session or Open Session.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephen Webster spoke in favor of continuing Parson’s contract.....

1:45

Mark Collson spoke in favor of continuing Parson’s contract.....

5:41

Heather Mann spoke in favor of terminating Parson’s contract

7:40

Mike Storey spoke about Parson’s lack of communication with Port users

11:34

Steve Beck spoke in favor of continuing Parson’s contract.....

12:56

IV. DISCUSS THE GENERAL MANAGER’S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

14:37

The Commissioners discussed the procedure for continuing the discussion. Parsons requested the Commission continue discussion in open session. The Commissioners discussed their comments and concerns with Parsons’ performance and continuation as General Manager, and the direction of the Port.

Parsons also commented on his experience working at the Port and with the Commission. 23:08

Lamerdin reviewed options for Commission action. 26:03

A motion was made by Skamser and seconded by Lackey that the 30 day termination provision of the General Manager’s employment contract be exercised and that the General Manager be given written notice that his employment with the Port of Newport is terminated as of July 26, 2018. 27:53

The Commissioners made additional comments on the motion 28:28

The motion passed 4 – 0...... 31:09

Lamerdin stated the Board’s request to have Parsons return his keys and passwords to the Director of Operations by 8:30 the next morning, and to be available if needed for the next 30 days. Lamerdin added that this was not a “for cause” decision, but had to do with fit, and discussed the next steps moving forward. Parsons added comments regarding transition. 31:20

V. PUBLIC COMMENT..... 34:40

Dan Kamikawa commented on the Board’s decision and the process for choosing a General Manager.

Heather Mann expressed optimism and support for the Port and the Commission.

VI. ADJOURNMENT 38:10

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.

ATTESTED:

Stewart Lamerdin, President
Pro-Tempore

Walter Chuck, Secretary/Treasurer
Pro-Tempore