

Friday Harbor Port District

Port Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 11, 2021 at 12:00 PM

The public is prohibited from attending in person due to COVID-19 restrictions but may dial into the meeting via the link listed below. Comments can be e-mailed to the Port or addressed to the commission during the public comment section.

Commissioners Present: Graham Black
Greg Hertel

Port Staff Present: Todd Nicholson, Executive Director
Phyllis Johnson, Auditor
Amber Garcia, Executive Assistant
Mike Roling, IT System Administrator

Public Present: Ten Citizens Observed on Zoom

Citizen comments/requests: Citizens can make a brief comment or may ask the Commission to schedule a topic for further discussion at a future meeting.

Discussion Items:

- A.** The Executive Director and Commission discussed the Port adopting Juneteenth as a Port Holiday. The Executive Director informed the Commission that recently at the federal level, Juneteenth was adopted as a federal holiday.

The Executive Director will have it included in the Personnel Manual update that will be brought to the Commission for approval later this year.

- B.** The Executive Director presented a drafted letter to the County relating to Jackson Beach Road traffic calming.

Commissioner Black stated that not having speed bumps reflects poorly on our values that we would prioritize a smooth driving experience over safety.

Commissioner Hertel doesn't see the need at this time, he suggested that we check the signage and possibly add additional speed limit signs.

The Commission would like this item to be tabled until the meeting on September 08, 2021.

Action Items:

- A.** The Executive Director presented the Aeronautical Services site plan and lease for Weber Way tracts 3 & 4 for Commission approval.

The Executive Director pointed out that there is a forest buffer indicated on the plan along the east and north edges of the leased property. The layout is much more efficient than the converted hangar lessee is currently in, it will be a large steel building with big open bays. The current building the lessee is occupying could possibly be sold or turned into hangar space, Aeronautical would be the ones making the decision.

Commissioner Black moved to approve the Aeronautical Services site plan and lease, and Commissioner Hertel seconded, approved unanimously with 2-0 vote.

Regular Business:

- A.** The Commission approved the minutes from the July 16, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Black moved to approve, and Commissioner Hertel seconded, approved unanimously with 2-0 vote.
- B.** The Commission approved payroll and vouchers #02018 for \$27,125.00 and #02019-02064 for \$386,707.84 Commissioner Hertel moved to approve, Commissioner Black seconded, approved unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

Staff Reports:

- A.** The Port Auditor informed the Commission that the state is going to be adding a new tax. A mandatory tax of .58% of your gross income for Long Term Care. The state would be a one-time \$36,500 benefit that can only be used in the state of Washington.

The Port is offering employees an option for the coverage through a private insurance company that offers plans from \$25,000-\$300,000 in coverage. The plan can also be transferred to other states and comes with a \$12,000 life insurance benefit. The employee would need to inform Employment Security that they have private coverage to waive the tax being deducted out their pay.

- B.** The Executive Director gave the Commission an update on the Jensen's rebuild. The Port has received the official approval from DNR for the expanded PMA. As part of the approval the Port will assume management of the 3 private mooring balls, if we need to move them for Marina Expansion, we will pay for them to be relocated. In addition, the Port may need to perform a Small Aquatic Land Lease for part of Jensen's and breakwater that pokes north of PMA.

The Port Maintenance Crew has finished constructing the walkways and half of the fingers. The walkways will be put in place soon and wiring for electric will also begin soon. The Opalco transformer will more than likely be the last thing to hook in to.

- C. The Executive Director offered the Commission an update on the Marine Technical Center (MTC). 90% of the plans are completed; building permits have been submitted and land use permits are finished just waiting for an answer from the county to complete. There's about 4-5 months of permitting to get through the process, site work could possibly begin next summer. Most of the MTC costs have been covered by grants. The MTC is very much on track with expected schedule.
- D. The Executive Director shared with the Commission that Farhad, Mayor of the Town of Friday Harbor inquired if the Port would be interested putting a piece of art near the lower plaza of Spring Street Landing. The Commission would entertain the idea if it were a compelling piece of art, but also has concern that it might not be cohesive with the area. The Executive Director will respond back to Farhad.

Port Commissioner and Committee Reports:

The Commission inquired if there has been more discussion about having a mooring field or system out in the bay of Jackson Beach. They like the idea of a mooring system versus a mooring field would be more environmentally friendly, could possibly be a pulley type system. The Commission would like to revisit this possibility.

Citizen comments/requests: Citizens can make a brief comment or may ask the Commission to schedule a topic for further discussion at a future meeting.

Adjourn: 1:20 PM



Graham, Black, Commissioner


For

Barbara Marrett, Commissioner


Greg Hertel, Commissioner