

Friday Harbor Port District

Port Commission Meeting Minutes

San Juan Island Yacht Club

Friday April 19, 2024, at 12:00 pm

Members of the public unable to attend the meeting may email comments for presentation to the Commission during the public comment period. Please email to ToddN@PortFH.org with the subject line "Public Comment". Comments must be received 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Present: Graham Black
Rich Goodhart
Barbara Marrett

Port Staff Present: Todd Nicholson, Executive Director
Phyllis Johnson, Port Auditor
Amanda O'Brien, Executive Assistant / AP
Mike Roling, IT System Administrator

Public Present: Jay Hurlburt, Citizen
Sally Hawkins, Citizen
Bob Clos, Citizen
Don Eaton, Citizen
Jason Knott, ESI
Emily Knott, ESI
Jonet Sudduth, Citizen
Necia Quast, LWVSY

Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 § 1(i):

Commissioner Goodhart began the Executive Session at 10:00 AM

"To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency."

Expected Duration: 45 Minutes

10:45 AM Close Executive Session and Resume Special Port Commission Meeting

Commissioner Goodhart closed the Executive Session at 10:45 AM, no decisions were

made. The Special Meeting immediately continued.

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. **None.**

Action Items:

- A. Determine Desired Boatyard Operations Model and the Timing of the Transition if a New Model is Chosen**

Commissioner Black made a motion to continue the status quo, known as “the Port Townson Model”, the notion that the Port controls the Travelift and Jensen’s Boat Yard while encouraging all vendors to come work on their boats. Commissioner Marrett seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Marrett stated that this model would avoid monopolistic control of the boat yard and welcomes self-work and other vendors. Given the upcoming environmental clean-up necessary, this is the best model for the time being.

Commissioner Black stated he agreed, given the complexity of the next few years with the clean-up. In an effort to ensure a smooth transition and be in the best interest of the public, he believes the lease terms need to stay on a month-to-month basis.

Commissioner Goodhart agreed with his cohorts, stating this model works best with the looming environmental clean-up and all its intricacies.

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.

Citizen Don Eaton stressed to the commission the importance of including iron clad language that addresses D.I.Y. work at Jensen’s in any future Jensen’s Boat Yard Operations contract. He further stressed the importance of the current chandlery at Jensen’s and his concern for its future.

Citizen Sally Hawkins explained to the commission she understands the frustration as a business having to adhere to a month-to-month lease; stating that she finds this type of lease to create uncertainty and makes it difficult for any business to plan for their future. She stated that while she understands the Port’s issues from a long-term perspective, she views this model as a Port focused benefit rather than a benefit to the boating community.

Citizen Jonet Sudduth inquired if the Port has a formal survey in place for accountability of customer satisfaction.

Commissioner Marrett explained that currently there is no formal customer survey available; although, the public is welcome to send in support or complaint letters or attend the Port's Commission meetings to express any concerns or compliments during the public comment period.

Citizen Don Eaton wanted to express his gratitude towards the commission for allowing public comment at all of the Port's regular meetings as the Port is not required to do so. He encouraged citizens who have something they want addressed to attend the Port's commission meetings.

Citizen Bob Clos questioned the Commission on their definition of "Economic Development". He stated that from his point of view, he sees the Port as being focused on growth, regardless of the impact on private industries, and feels as though that is the wrong model for a government agency. He requested the commission discuss their view of Economic development, and whether that involves overthrowing private parties, at a future meeting.

Commissioner Marrett explained that the Port's mission has never been to take over private businesses, rather to create jobs. She explained the Port always makes it a point to try and not compete with other local businesses. She gave an example of the local laundromat that was considered before the Port created a laundromat for use by their permanent and transient customers. Further, she explained the likelihood that Jensen's Boat Yard would not currently be operating had the Port not stepped in due to the extensive renovation and restoration costs necessary to bring the yard up to code.

Commissioner Black explained his stance that currently he does not see a long-term lease as being viable due to the ongoing clean-up process. Although, once completed, he would be open to the possibility.

Citizen Sally Hawkins asked if Jensen's Boat Yard would be closing, to which the commission replied, "no".

The question of the expected duration the Commission anticipates the clean-up process to take was brought forward, to which Director Nicholson stated approximately five years. Mr. Nicholson explained that the project was sequenced for minimal impact to the Port's customers.

Jason Knott from ESI stated that he appreciated the commission's time and consideration. He pointed out that when it comes to Economic Development, ESI encourages competition from other vendors, and that he

views the Port controlling Jensen's Boat Yard and the Travelift as monopolistic. He stated that his agenda is to find a way to make things work with the commission, and that he asked the commission to find a model that would fulfill the needs that ESI has. For instance, things like notifications when the yard will be shut down or completing tasks such as crushing boats. With the uncertainty of the future of his lease, Mr. Knott explained he is unable to place orders for the Chandlery, which has adverse effects on his business. Mr. Knott ended his comment reiterating his appreciation of the commission.

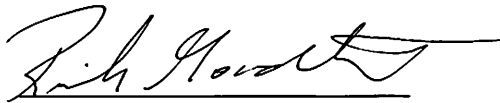
Adjourn: 11:17 AM



Graham Black, Commissioner



Barbara Marrett, Commissioner



Rich Goodhart, Commissioner