

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County of February 19, 2009.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Port office in Colfax, Washington. Present were all Commissioners, the Properties and Development Manager, ADO Director Dick Watters, and the Port Attorney. Also present was Joe Smillie of the Whitman County Gazette. Joining the meeting was Dr. Steve Peterson of the University of Idaho.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A **MOTION** was made to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of February 5, 2009, as mailed and entered in the minute book. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: The Commissioners reviewed the claims.

Commissioner Gronholz inquired as to Claim Nos. 18709 of the Pullman Disposal Service and 18714 of T & R Snow Removal. The Properties and Development Manager explained that the Port provides garbage disposal and snow removal services for the tenants at the Henley Court building. She further explained that the costs are built into the rental rates.

Commissioner Gronholz inquired as to Claim No. 18724 to Munir Daud + Associates. The Properties and Development Manager explained that the claim was for services from the engineering firm for review of water supply and availability issues at Central Ferry.

Commissioner Love inquired as to Claim No. 18723 of the Green Grid Alliance. The Properties and Development Manager explained that the claim was for budgeted equipment for the IPZ project. The funds are covered by state grants for the Innovation Partnership Zone.

A **MOTION** was made to approve Claim Nos. 18706 through 18724 totaling \$11,460.18. The motion carried.

REPORT ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC TRENDS: Dr. Peterson reported on national and regional economic trends. He commented on several national leading economic indicators, including the following: the rising unemployment rate projected to nationally reach 9 to 12% in the coming year; an all-time low in consumer confidence; major reductions in aggregate demand, raising the prospect of deflation; the continuing decline in housing starts and housing prices; partially frozen financial markets; and rising national debt. He said that the regional economy may be slightly better off than the national economy.

He noted that usually the Inland Northwest region does not grow as rapidly when the national economy is growing, but neither does it decline as rapidly when the national economy is declining. Nevertheless, he predicted the region will not avoid the impacts of the economic downturn. One reason that the local region may experience a more severe downturn than in past recessions is both the University of Idaho and Washington State University are expected to implement major layoffs. Dr. Peterson concluded his report by outlining the scope of the study he is conducting on the impact of the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport. He plans to have the study concluded by late spring or early summer of this year.

At 11:15 a.m., Dr. Peterson left the meeting.

REGULAR MEETING RECESSED: At 11:50 a.m., the Port President called for a lunch recess, with the regular meeting to reconvene at 12:20 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED: At 12:20 p.m., the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County reconvened following lunch recess. Present were all Commissioners, the Properties and Development Manager, and the Port Attorney. Also present was ADO Director Dick Watters.

ADO ACTIVITIES: Mr. Watters reported that he recently met separately with County Commissioner Greg Partch and with County Commissioner Patrick O'Neill, and he plans to meet with County Commissioner Michael Largent. He indicated that he had briefed both of the Commissioners on ADO activities.

At 12:30 p.m., Mr. Watters left the meeting.

PORT OF WILMA: Commissioner Love reported on visiting the Port of Wilma. He noted that the TGM activities were impressive and specifically commented on the amount of material the company is currently moving, exporting the world's third largest dragline, from the oil sands in Canada to Australia.

POWBAC - T-HANGAR PROJECT: The Properties and Development Manager reported that the contractor on the T-hangar project has a few items left to finish on the punch list, but the project is nearly completed.

BOYER PARK: The Properties and Development Manager reported on Boyer Park. The RV expansion project, located in the upper end of the day-use area, will not require a shoreline permit as the project is substantively outside of the 200 foot shoreline buffer. The tree trimming project has gone out to bid

on the small works roster. The first phase of the project will include removal of approximately 80 trees. The hotel room remodel is proceeding and should be completed within the next two weeks.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-02: A **MOTION** was made to pass Resolution No. 09-02 declaring as surplus the office microwave and authorizing its disposal. The motion carried.

INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP ZONE: The Properties and Development Manager and the Port Commissioners discussed IPZ funding issues. It was noted that the Executive Director was in Olympia discussing the same matter with state officials which is why he was absent from the meeting.

The Properties and Development Manager shared the Power Point presentation on the IPZ project which will be used in presentations to state officials and others.

MEETING ADJOURNED: At 2:00 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

PORT OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

JOHN E. LOVE, President

ROBERT F. GRONHOLZ, Vice President

DANIEL W. BOONE, Secretary