

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County of June 4, 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 Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, the Port Attorney, and Whitman County Commissioner Greg Partch. Joe Smillie of the Whitman County Gazette joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A **MOTION** was made to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of May 21, 2009, as mailed and entered in the minute book, with the following correction: regarding the announcement for the SEWEDA Executive Director position, Commissioner Gronholz did say the announcement did not address the community development responsibilities of SEWEDA; but he did not say the community development responsibilities "should have been included in the announcement." The motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made to correct the Minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2009, as follows: The heading to the paragraph declaring surplus the utility tractor should be corrected to state that the motion was for a declaration of surplus of a "John Deere", not a "Kubota" tractor. The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** The Commissioners considered the claims. Commissioner Gronholz inquired as to Claim No. 18972 for repairs at Boyer Park. The Executive Director explained that the portion of the repair costs necessitated by the damage caused by the boat fire will be reimbursed by the owner of the boat.

A **MOTION** was made to approve Claim Nos. 18941 through 18973 totaling \$88,121.24 and electronic funds transfer for payroll taxes of \$5,994.56. The motion carried.

County Commissioner Partch left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-06:** A **MOTION** was made to pass Resolution No. 09-06 declaring surplus seven "fiber optic" vaults and authorizing their sale. The motion carried.

County Commissioner Partch rejoined the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

**SEWEDA/RPTO MEETING:** Commissioner Gronholz reported on the SEWEDA/RPTO meeting of June 2, 2009. Resources for the

RPTO/SEWEDA Board will be down approximately 8% for the fiscal year 2009-2010. Selection of a new Executive Director for SEWEDA is proceeding. County Commissioner Partch reported that the interim director, Jenny Scott, is doing an excellent job.

**VALLEY VISION MEETING:** Commissioner Boone reported on the Valley Vision meeting of June 2, 2009. The proposed Dayton wind generation project was a topic of discussion. Commissioner Boone also briefly reported on a conversation following the meeting that he had with Idaho State Senator Joe Stegner regarding the dam breaching issue. Senator Stegner remains opposed to breaching the dams on the lower Snake River.

**REPORT ON LOUISIANA PORTS:** Commissioner Love reported that while on a recent personal trip to Louisiana, he had an opportunity to view activities at the Port of Lake Charles and the Port of New Orleans. He noted they were both "magnificent facilities."

**BOYER - DOCK REPAIRS COMPLETE:** The Properties and Development Manager reported that the dock repairs at Boyer have been completed.

**MARKETING BROCHURE AND VIDEO UPDATES:** The Properties and Development Manager reported on updates to the Port's marketing brochure and marketing video. A new section on the Port's telecommunications project is the last element to be added, and she anticipates completion by mid-summer.

**IPZ GRANT FUNDING:** The Executive Director reported that the period for expending existing IP Zone grant funds will end on June 30, 2009.

**SPOKANE FIBER PROJECT - TELECOMMUNICATIONS FEASIBILITY STUDY:** The Executive Director reported on progress on the telecommunications feasibility study for the Spokane fiber project.

**MERRY CELLARS - BID FOR LANDLORD IMPROVEMENTS:** The Executive Director reported that the project for landlord improvements to be made by the Port pursuant to its lease with Merry Cellars at the Henley Court Building has gone out for bid.

At 11:00 a.m., Francis Benjamin, Margaret Howlett, and Tammy Lewis joined the meeting.

At 11:05 a.m., the Properties and Development Manager left the meeting.

**PALOUSE KNOWLEDGE CORRIDOR:** Mr. Benjamin, Ms. Howlett, and Ms. Lewis presented a "power-point" report on the

"Palouse Knowledge Corridor." Highlights of the presentation include the following:

Mission:

The mission of the Palouse Knowledge Corridor is to promote the Palouse region by partnering with the universities, the private sector, economic development agencies, and government entities.

Goals:

- (1) Attract new business;
- (2) Establish and grow local business; and
- (3) Draw a labor force to the area.

Marketing Pieces:

- (1) Emphasize the advantages of two universities in the region;
- (2) The existing cluster of technology businesses; and
- (3) The regional quality of life.

Ms. Lewis and Ms. Howlett left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

**ADO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE:** The Commissioners and County Commissioner Partch discussed with Mr. Benjamin the question of the ongoing viability of the ADO Community Committee. Mr. Benjamin noted that historically the Committee has provided feedback and direction to the ADO. He observed that the Committee has provided the smaller communities with a forum for their economic development issues, stating "economic development in Palouse may look different than it does in Pullman." He also noted that the Committee provides cross-connection between communities so that what has worked in one community can be shared with other communities. Mr. Benjamin asked whether the Community Committee had a future and, if so, how was it going to function.

Commissioner Love commented that the Committee might be structured as a cooperative committee among the various communities, meeting perhaps on a quarterly basis. County Commissioner Partch suggested that a Community Committee could continue to play an important role in economic development for the region and asked the Port Commission to keep this in mind. No action was taken.

**REGULAR MEETING RECESSED:** At 12:10 p.m., the Port President called for a lunch recess, with the regular meeting to reconvene at 12:45 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED:** At 12:45 p.m., the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County was reconvened in the Port office in Colfax, Washington. All Commissioners, the Executive Director, and the Port Attorney were present.

**INLAND PORTS AND NAVIGATION GROUP - FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**  
The Port's financial support for the Inland Ports and Navigation Group was discussed. A request for \$9,000 has been received from the group. Commissioner Gronholz indicated he thought \$9,000 was too much.

The Properties and Development Manager rejoined the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

**INLAND PORTS NAVIGATION GROUP - FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**  
The discussion regarding the IPNG support amount continued. A **MOTION** was made to approve \$9,000 for the next budget cycle for the Inland Ports Navigation Group. Commissioners Boone and Love voted in favor, and Commissioner Gronholz opposed the motion. The motion carried.

**ASOTIN COUNTY PUD - MORATORIUM ON MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FEE:** The Executive Director reported on discussions with the Asotin County Public Utilities District regarding a "moratorium" on the maintenance contract for Wilma for the summer season due to the drastic reduction in water use contemplated. (Bennett Lumber has announced it will have no log decks on site in the summer of 2009.) The Executive Director reported the Public Utilities District's attorney is drafting an agreement in this regard and will be sending it out for review.

**WILMA - RAIL SPUR PROJECT:** The Properties and Development Manager reported that work on the rail spur project at Wilma should start around June 19, 2009, and should be completed in early July.

**PORT/PULLMAN CHAMBER TOUR:** A letter from Tammy Lewis of the Pullman Chamber of Commerce regarding the annual Port/Chamber of Commerce "tour" was discussed. A **MOTION** was made to authorize \$1,000 for the Port/Chamber tour to be scheduled in the fall of 2009. The motion carried.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER O'NEILL REQUESTS TOUR OF PORT FACILITIES:** The Properties and Development Manager reported that County Commissioner O'Neill has indicated an interest in viewing the Port's facilities. Commissioner Boone volunteered to schedule a time with County Commissioner O'Neill to show him selected Port facilities.

**CONTRACT WITH SEWEDA EXTENDED TO JUNE 30, 2010:** A MOTION was made to extend the Port's current contract with SEWEDA to June 30, 2010. The motion carried.

**REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Port Executive Director requested an executive session to discuss pricing and the Port's negotiating position with respect to the Henley Court Building and the "Spokane" fiber optic project.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 2:00 p.m., the Port President called for an executive session, with the regular meeting to reconvene at 3:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION EXTENDED:** At 3:00 p.m., the Port President extended the executive session to 3:10 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED:** At 3:10 p.m., the executive session concluded and the public session of the regular meeting of the Port meeting of June 4, 2009, was reconvened in the Port office in Colfax, Washington. All Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, and the Port Attorney were present.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** At 3:10 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

PORT OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

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JOHN E. LOVE, President

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ROBERT F. GRONHOLZ, Vice President

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DANIEL W. BOONE, Secretary