

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County of October 21, 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, and the Port Attorney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A **MOTION** was made to approve the Minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2009, as mailed and entered in the minute book. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: The Commissioners considered the claims.

Commissioner Gronholz inquired as to Claim No. 19270 from Gray Bar. The Executive Director responded that the claim was for materials for the extension of the Pullman Industrial Park fiber runs.

Commissioner Gronholz inquired as to Claim No. 19274 of Palouse River Rock. The Executive Director responded that it was for work and materials to complete the extension of the Port's water system to the new hangar buildings at POWBAC.

Commissioner Love inquired as to Claim No. 19268. The Executive Director responded that the claim was for office supplies and material for the Port fair booth.

Commissioner Gronholz inquired as to Claim No. 19278 of KACI General Contractors. The Executive Director responded the claim was for a progress payment for improvements to the Henley Court Building being made for lease to tenant Merry Cellars.

A **MOTION** was made to approve Claim Nos. 19255 through 19279 totaling \$93,413.45 and to avoid Claim No. 19248 in the amount of \$251.96. The motion carried.

At 10:10 a.m., the Properties and Development Manager joined the meeting.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING: Commissioner Boone reported on attending the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association annual meeting in Portland.

INLAND PORTS NAVIGATION GROUP: Commissioner Love reported on attending the Inland Ports Navigation Group meeting during the PNWA meeting. The group discussed budget issues, and the consensus was that the existing budget would remain in effect.

SEWEDA MEETING: The Executive Director reported that Dick Watters had attended the SEWEDA meeting. The new Director of SEWEDA, Duane Wollmuth, was at the meeting. It was noted that the Department of Commerce (formerly CTED) is looking at additional

staffing cuts. Budget cuts are expected to affect SEWEDA and other economic development agencies funded by the Department of Commerce.

The Executive Director reported that he met with Mr. Wollmuth on October 15, 2009. One of the big challenges for SEWEDA will be operating under new budget constraints. They discussed Port issues and toured Wilma and the Pullman Industrial Park.

LEASE OF HENLEY COURT BUILDING: The Executive Director reported that efforts to lease the Henley Court Building are ongoing. He noted that finding a purchaser for the building in the near term seems less and less likely. He noted that one prospective tenant of the building would require a zone change from industrial to light commercial. The Commissioners indicated that they would be willing to support a zone change. No formal action was taken.

IP ZONES: A meeting with state officials from the Department of Commerce pertaining to the IP zones is scheduled in Spokane on October 27, 2009. The Executive Director reported that Don Tilton plans to attend the meeting. He also noted the completion of the grant application for additional IP zone funding with the Department of Commerce is pending. The grant provisions allow for the acquisition of hard assets only. The application will include requests for extending utilities to the Locust Grove Industrial Park.

TOWN OF ROSALIA - AIRPORT PROPERTY: Ken Jacobs of the Town of Rosalia joined the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Mr. Jacobs reported the Town of Rosalia has successfully acquired additional property at the airport. He thanked the Port for helping on the environmental assessment recently completed. He noted that the tie-down area at the airport was scheduled to be upgraded. The Town is looking for a fixed-base operator to locate at the airport. The need for an upgrade to the card control fuel system at the airport was discussed. A budget of approximately \$7,500 was discussed. It was noted that the Port had previously worked with the Town on a "card-trol" type fuel system project at the Rosalia Airport. The Commissioners indicated they would be willing to consider partnering with the Town on a new system, but no formal action was taken.

PCC RAIL BOARD MEETING: It was noted that the PCC Rail Board meeting was scheduled for October 29, 2009. Commissioner Gronholz is the representative for the Port on the Board. A **MOTION** was made to appoint Commissioner Love as an alternate representative on the PCC Rail Board. The motion carried.

SEWEDA BOARD: It was noted that Commissioner Gronholz was the Port representative on the SEWEDA Board. A **MOTION** was made to appoint Commissioner Boone as an alternate representative on the SEWEDA Board. The motion carried.

NORTHWEST OPEN ACCESS NETWORK PROJECT: It was noted that Governor Gregoire recently responded to a request for comments from the U.S. Department of Commerce on the federal broadband stimulation application project. The Governor's letter stated that the "northwest open access network" project met both federal program objectives and Washington State's broadband priorities. The Port's telecommunications project is included in the "northwest open access network" proposal.

PORT COMMISSIONER/WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER JOINT MEETING: It was noted that the Port Commissioner/Whitman County Commissioner joint meeting is scheduled in the Port office on November 2, 2009. Mr. Wollmuth of SEWEDA has been invited to join the meeting.

REGULAR MEETING RECESSED: At 11:55 a.m., the Port President called for a lunch recess, with the regular meeting to reconvene at 12:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED: At 12:30 p.m., the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County reconvened following lunch recess. Present were all Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, and the Port Attorney.

PCC RAIL ISSUES: Discussion ensued regarding the PCC Rail issues. Funding for the rail system and developing business strategies for an economically sustainable system remain the challenges.

MEETING ADJOURNED: At 12:55 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