

Minutes of the meeting of the Port of Whitman County of December 17, 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, and the Port Attorney. Also present was Joe Smillie of the Whitman County Gazette.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A **MOTION** was made to approve the Minutes of the meeting of December 3, 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. 19386 from Staples Office Supply. The Executive Director responded that the Port has an open account with Staples for office supplies and the claim was for office supply purchases.

Commissioner Gronholz inquired as to Claim No. 19390. The Executive Director responded this was the annual contract fee for maintenance at POWBAC.

Commissioner Love inquired as to Claim No. 19387. The Executive Director responded that the claim was for rail crossing repairs at the Granger site at Wilma. The repair expense is reimbursable from the tenant.

A **MOTION** was made to approve Claim Nos. 19369 through 19394 totaling \$45,326.35. The motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made to void Claim No. 19337 in the sum of \$1,708.06. The motion carried.

RTPO MEETING: Commissioner Boone reported that the December RTPO meeting had been rescheduled to January 12, 2010.

PBAC CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING: Commissioner Boone reported on attending the PBAC Citizens Advisory Group meeting on December 10, 2009, in Moscow, Idaho. Officers for the new year were elected at the meeting.

PULLMAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MEETING: Commissioner Love reported on meeting with the Pullman League of Women Voters on December 7, 2009. The Executive Director also attended the meeting. Commissioner Love reported that the group was very well briefed on Port issues resulting in a beneficial exchange of information.

PCC RAIL AUTHORITY ISSUES: The Executive Director reported on PCC rail authority issues. He indicated that a

decision on the rail authority's TIGER grant application has not yet been issued. He did indicate that expectations for a favorable decision were not very high. The Commissioners and the Executive Director discussed funding and appropriation alternatives for the rail system. The matter will be discussed further at the Port's strategic planning meeting scheduled for December 29, 2009, in Spokane. The Executive Director indicated he would like to come out of the meeting with recommendations for the PCC Board. He noted that at the instigation of the PCC Board, the Washington State Department of Transportation has commissioned a study on infrastructure needs for the system which is scheduled to be completed by the end of January. The study is being conducted by HDR Engineering.

The Executive Director reported that on Monday, December 14, 2009, he met with members of the staffs of Congressman Minnick, Congresswoman McMorris-Rodgers, Senator Cantwell, and Senator Murray. A representative of the Washington State Wheat Growers Association was also at the meeting. Funding sources and priorities for the rail system infrastructure was discussed at the meeting.

The Executive Director stated that finding funding for preserving the rail system was not only going to be challenging but would be a project lasting many years.

PNWA MISSION TO WASHINGTON: It was noted that the Executive Director will represent the Port at the 2010 PNWA Mission to Washington.

CORRECTION TO RESOLUTION NO. 09-10: A **MOTION** was made to correct Resolution No. 09-10 to state that the final payment date on the obligation of the Town of Rosalia, pursuant to the agreement with the Town, is January 1, 2017, not January 1, 2018. The motion carried.

PARKING LOT EXPANSION PROJECT AT PORT OFFICE: The Properties and Development Manager gave a brief report on the parking lot expansion project at the Port office. It was also noted that the Port interior has received a new coat of paint.

PIONEER PORTS MEETING: It was noted that the next Pioneer Ports meeting was scheduled for January 13, 2010, in Clarkston, Washington.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-12: The Executive Director reported on the declaration of emergency at Almota due to a ground collapse behind the public port dock sheet piling. He reported

further on action taken. A **MOTION** was made to pass Resolution No. 09-12 finding that an emergency existed and exists at the Port of Almota due to the failure of the ground support for the conveyor system at the site. The motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING RECESSED: At 12:00 p.m., the Port President called for a lunch recess, with the regular meeting to reconvene at 12:30 p.m., indicating that an executive session would be called following recess.

REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED: At 12:30 p.m., the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County was called to order in the Port office in Colfax, Washington. Attending were all Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, and the Port Attorney.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 12:30 p.m., the Port President called for an executive session until 1:00 p.m. to discuss real estate matters affecting price.

REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED: At 1:00 p.m., the public session of the regular meeting of the Port of Whitman County of December 17, 2009, was called to order following executive session. Present were all Commissioners, the Executive Director, the Properties and Development Manager, and the Port Attorney.

MEETING ADJOURNED: At 1:05 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

PORT OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

ROBERT F. GRONHOLZ, President

DANIEL W. BOONE, Vice President

JOHN E. LOVE, Secretary