

Port of Umpqua

Regular Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024 at 7 p.m.
Port of Umpqua Annex
1841 Winchester Ave
Reedsport, OR

THESE MINUTES ARE FINAL and APPROVED.

Commissioners Present:

Vice President Joe Mulkey
Secretary Donna Train
Treasurer Randy DuVal
Assistant Secretary Deborah Yates

Commissioners Not Present:

President Carey Jones

Port Staff Present:

Port Manager Scott Kent
Administrative Assistant Karen Halstead

Public Present: Dana Ferguson, Mike Jenks & Courtney Halstead

NOTE: All items handed out at the meeting are available for view by public request.

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Vice President Joe Mulkey.

It is noted that a quorum of Commissioners was present for this meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA – All items listed are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion.

- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** As presented.
- **APPROVAL OF BUDGET MEETING MINUTES:** April 17, 2024 as presented.
- **APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** April 17, 2024 as presented.
- **APPROVAL OF BILLS:** In the amount of \$5,413.39 to be paid from the General Fund.

Commissioner Train made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, 2nd by Commissioner DuVal. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dana Ferguson, Representative for PDS:

Got the crane moved out and ready for The Port to move to the Umpqua River Wharf. The new crane has not been installed yet. He's gotten a majority of the installation done, and Whit Industries will be coming on Friday to help finish the job so it will be up and running soon.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Budget hearing.

a. Adopt the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget

Scott: Input from the budget committee meeting on April 17, 2024 were incorporated into the proposed budget presented on May 15, 2024 for the budget hearing. No revisions were made by the budget committee.

The Budget Officer recommends approval of Resolution 24-03 adopting the budget, making appropriations, and imposing and categorizing the tax for Fiscal year 2024-2025.

After the budget is approved by the Budget Committee and prior to July 1, 2024, the Commission has the authority to adjust resources and requirements; however, there are limitations:

1. Taxes may not be increased over the amount approved by the Budget Committee.
2. Estimated expenditures in a fund cannot be increased by more than \$5,000 or 10 percent, whichever is greater.

Neither of the two limitations can be exceeded without first publishing a revised budget summary and holding another budget hearing. The Budget must be adopted by June 30, 2024.

Joe asked if there was any public comment:

There was no public comment.

- **Commissioner DuVal made a motion to adopt the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget as presented and approved by the Budget Committee, 2nd by Commissioner Train. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner DuVal made a motion to adopt Resolution 24-03, which adopts the budget in the amount of one million seven hundred ninety-eight thousand four hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$1,798,477), 2nd by Commissioner Train. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.**

After the vote Scott stated that The Port now has an approved budget.

2. Chainsaw sponsorship

Scott: The Chamber of Commerce has requested support from the Port of Umpqua for the 2024 Chainsaw Carving Championship to be held June 13-16, 2024.

There are four levels of support; each sponsorship provides different levels of advertising:

- Gold Sponsor \$1,500
- Silver Sponsor \$1,000
- Bronze Sponsor \$500
- Community Sponsor \$100

➤ **Commissioner Train made a motion to sponsor the Chamber of Commerce Chainsaw Carving Championship in the amount of \$500, 2nd by Commissioner DuVal. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.**

3. Discussion on Offshore Wind Generation

Scott: This is intended to provide the Commissioners a chance to discuss the ramifications of the Offshore Wind Generation Project. The Port has not taken a position on this matter.

This topic came up due to a recent video presentation that Scott and the Commissioners watched. The presentation was from the Informal Offshore Wind Work Group and was titled “2024 Oregon Floating Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap with Exit Ramps: Considerations”. Scott wanted to take this chance to discuss this topic and to give the Commissioners and the public the opportunity to make public comments on the matter.

Joe: If he remembered right last year The Port did vote to take a position; The Port of Umpqua was against wind energy in the ocean.

Deb: Felt that the video was basically a lot of people who were saying the same thing.

Donna: Agreed with Deb that the video presentation basically was a group saying the exact same thing. She felt that the video was only offered to a select group of people, and she feels they should make this presentation available to the public to allow the public to comment on what they think about it. This is a new way the government is stating they have presented their ideas and received comments yet, its technically not open to the public.

Randy: It was stated in the video was that the “legislature had mandated this presentation”, then they offered to pause or rewind parts of the video, but they never said this is open for discussion on whether it should be done or not.

Mike Jenks, Winchester Bay resident: He has heard what is happening on the East Coast and the structure down there is mostly broken, they don’t work, they affect the whales, the fishing and, are killing birds. From what Mike has heard the company that was working on building the machinery was from Denmark and once the Federal Government pulled their money out, the Denmark company lost money and left.

Going through California he has seen windmills everywhere and half of them aren’t operating. It is Mike’s understanding that most people on the Southern Oregon Coast are opposed to this concept. Also, the technology that is supposed to be ready by 2030 is not

available yet. They have to figure out how to make a 75' high windmill able to float which means there will be some very heavy anchors out there that will affect the fish below them. This will destroy our local fisheries.

Dana: His best friend's son is a lineman, and he is installing the land windmills. When Dana talked to him, he told Dana they don't park their trucks underneath them when they are working on them because of all the hydraulic oil that spews out of them. If they put them in the ocean that's going to be a lot of oil spewing into the ocean.

Mike: Pacific Power had a windmill farm down by Whiskey Run beach and if you go there today there may be a sign that says they were there, but the windmills are gone.

Deb: It is just like the wave energy project. They installed one test buoy, and it wasn't a month before it broke loose and sank.

Joe: The two main concerns he has are that where they want to install these windmills is where the Albatross migrate to spend the summers. There is a certain breed of Albatross and if a long-liner fishermen is caught killing 3 in a year the government will completely shut down that fishery. How can they justify putting windmills out there that are certainly going to kill a lot of birds including Albatross every day. His other issue is that the windmills will have high voltage wires running along the bottom of the ocean and it will probably kill the squid fishery. As it is now, when he is tracking squid, if an electrical motor on his boat like the refrigeration comes on, just that alone will make the squid scatter. These windmills will also be taking up a lot of fishing grounds that a lot of people use for their livelihood.

- **Commissioner Train made a motion that The Port of Umpqua send a letter to the necessary people by Scott that The Port of Umpqua is completely against Off-Shore Wind Energy.**

(After the motion there was discussion of who all should receive a copy of the letter sharing The Port's stance against Off-Shore Windmills).

The motion was seconded by Commissioner DuVal. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

4. Paid Leave Oregon manual

Scott: Our attorney provided a manual for the Paid Leave Oregon program. This program (PLO) is sponsored by the State of Oregon and allows eligible employees to take up to 12-weeks of paid time off per benefit year for the following reasons: family leave, medical leave, or safe leave. The Paid Leave manual had been provided in the meeting packets.

Donna: When did that become effective in Oregon?

Scott: Recently within the last few months. The Port employees pay in to it every month and it comes to around \$50 per month.

- **Commissioner DuVal made a motion to adopt the Paid Leave Oregon Manual as published and recommended by our attorney, 2nd by Commissioner Yates. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.**

REPORTS:

STAFF REPORT:

Scott:

1. Providence Creek tidegate: It looks like we will indeed receive a grant from Business Oregon and maybe ODFW for a study and engineering for the tidegate replacement on Leeds Island. I did not expect this, so this is good news. I do not expect to hear for sure for another month or so.
2. Hoist Move: The surveyor has been to the site to create a topographic map. I met with him and identified the features we are interested in locating. I had an electrician from Elk Horn examine the transformers adjacent to the site to see if there was 3-phase power available. Unfortunately, there are no three phase. He will look into what it would take to get three phase to the site. I expect to hear about this in a couple of weeks.
3. Randy and I had a quick meeting with the bank manager regarding CD rates. The rates for those are only at 2%, which is significantly less than a private individual.
4. I am considering getting new computers in the office, what we have is painfully slow.

S.T.E.P. Deb Yates:

People all over the country have heard about the vandalism at the hatchery, she received a call from Georgia just today. The suspect is going to court for an arraignment tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. This arraignment will be about the charges of poaching the fish. The suspect who is 20 years old had never been in trouble with the law before. When the officer caught him at the hatchery a day after it happened, he admitted to the deputy that he had broken into the shed but denied pouring the bleach into the tank of fish. He did a significant amount of damage to the door to the shed.

Law enforcement has taken the dead fish as evidence, they are currently being held in the State Police Crime Lab freezer. This is the largest poaching crime to have ever happened in the state of Oregon. The State Police & ODFW could charge him for each fish killed.

The police have contacted S.T.E.P. to ask what the group would like to have happen to him. S.T.E.P. members would like to see him go to jail for a period of time, they would like to see him get a large fine and they want him to have to do a lot of community service. It's so sad, there was a loss of 18,000 fish.

Joe: Will this affect your test you have planned to release 25,000 fish up Winchester Creek?

Deb: It will definitely reduce the number of fish released.

COMMISSIONERS:

Joe: Recently Scott sent out an email showing a proposed budget for the hoist project on the Umpqua River Wharf. One of the numbers listed was for Electrical Engineering at the cost of \$30,000 - \$40,000. Joe asked Scott how he came up with this number for this project?

Scott: He estimated high on that line, and it turns out The Port doesn't have 3-phase power on the Umpqua River Wharf, so we may have to run lines. There will be more solid numbers as the project moves forward with the architect.

Joe: He didn't understand why there was a need for engineering for this.

Dana: Any commercial dock and especially being a government agency it is required to have electrical engineering. All of the companies he's worked with have had to have electrical engineering.

The meeting was adjourned at: 7:36

The next Port of Umpqua Regular Meeting will be held June 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Port of Umpqua Annex building, 1841 Winchester Ave., Reedsport, Oregon 97467.

****Note: THESE ARE QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS WHILE SIGNING CHECKS, BOTH AT THE END OF THE MONTH, AND DURING THE CHECK SIGNING AT THE MEETING:**

4/30/24:

Commissioner questions from check signing at end of the month to be included in the May 15, 2024 minutes:

Donna: Who is Joseph's?

A: Since Karen is no longer able to do the janitorial in the building(s), The Port hired Joseph's Janitorial out of Coquille. The person who actually comes in is Kari, and she lives in Reedsport.

Donna: What is Pacific Source?

A: That is our Dental Insurance provider.

Checks were signed by Commissioners Jones and Train.

Questions from check signing at the May 15, 2024 meeting:

Randy: Who is Country Media?

A: The World Newspaper where we publish our required publications.

Checks were signed by Commissioners Yates and DuVal.

Carey Jones, President

Karen Halstead, Admin. Assistant