

**PORT OF NEWPORT MINUTES**

January 2, 2019

Commission Special Meeting

*This is not an exact transcript. The audio of the session is available on the Port's website.*

**Agenda Item**

**Audio  
Time**

**I. CALL TO ORDER .....**

0:00

Commission President Stewart Lamerdin called the Regular Commission Meeting of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners to order at 12:00 pm at the Yaquina Bay Yacht Club, 750 SE Bay Blvd, Newport, Oregon. He reminded those in attendance of the public comment periods and the comment forms available to address a specific agenda item.

**Commissioners Present:** Walter Chuck (Pos. #1), Secretary/Treasurer; Sara Skamser (Pos. #2), Vice President; Stewart Lamerdin (Pos. #3), President; Jeff Lackey (Pos. #4); and Jim Burke (Pos. #5).

**Management and Staff:** Teri Dresler, Interim General Manager; Aaron Bretz, Director of Operations; and Karen Hewitt, Administrative Supervisor.

**Members of the Public and Media:** T. Burchett, ILWU; Y. Fogarty, ILWU; B. Cuder; B. Forsman, ILWU; R. Johnston; K. Johnston; David Olsen; E. Corder, ILWU; Judi Mehrens, ILWU; Mary Botkin, ILWU; Steve Beck; Keith Kaminski, ILWU; Jim Cline, Rogue; John Moody, Pacific Seafood; Josh Hulsey, Pacific Seafood; Wayde Dudley; Barb Dudley; Barrett Tower, ILWU; Mike Storey, F/V Pegasus; Cheryl Harle, Boss FM Radio; Doug Cooper, Hampton Lumber; Jim Seavers, F/V Seeker, F/V Miss Sue; Heather Mann, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative (MTC); Mark Cooper, F/V Perseverance, F/V Predator, F/V Pacific, F/V Leslie Lee; Gil Sylvia, OSU; Bud Shoemake, Port of Toledo; Patti Ferry, Newport Chamber of Commerce; Kaety Jacobson, Lincoln County Commission; Pat Ruddiman, ILWU; Tracy Burchett, ILWU; Rex Capri; Lisa Lackey; Casey Cooper, F/V Pacific, F/V Leslie Lee, F/V Predator; Dean Fleck, Englund Marine; Kurt Cochran, F/V Marathon, F/V New Life, F/V Bay Islander; Kimberlie Cochran, F/V Marathon, F/V New Life, F/V Bay Islander; and David Dahle, Boss Radio 100.7.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT .....**

1:08

Mary Botkin spoke about House Bill 2284 and the intent to expand operations at the Terminal.

Judy Mehrens said she is working with Botkin, and spoke more about the bill and its supporters.

David Olsen spoke about Newport as a fishing port and community.

**III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – REPRESENTATIVE DAVID GOMBERG .....**

8:25

Lamerdin introduced Gomberg, who was invited to address the process and procedure related to the proposed House Bill 2284. Gomberg said he had conversation with several people in the room, but he was here to share this information publically. He provided notes, appended to the minutes, which summarized his comments. Gomberg said it was very early in the legislative process, but this proposed bill should come as no surprise. He added the issue in Salem is the investment of

public dollars. In response to a question about navigating Salem, Gomberg said the Coastal Caucus is a group of legislators representing coastal districts that meet on a regular basis, and a first step could be for a Commissioner to come and update the Caucus. Once the bill is assigned, the Port should meet with the chair of that committee. Gomberg offered to join in that meeting, after which he could help plan the next steps. Lackey asked if there were other potential port bills. Gomberg said there is a proposed bill regarding public contracts that could affect the Port of Toledo. Gomberg commented on the cosponsors of the bill, two of whom had ports in their districts and others who had commodities. Gomberg suggested it would be valuable to schedule a longer conversation with the Port Commission. He said the port needs to first understand the questions and have answers, look at possible opportunities to maximize investment at the Terminal, look at what can be done about debt load, and look at what to do about getting grants. He suggested this be done before meeting with the committee chair and members.

Heather Mann commented that the deal previously presented for shipping at the Terminal would have been a bad deal for the Port. She said the bill was an assault on fishing, the Terminal is not a mega-shipping facility, and local elections matter.

Steve Beck spoke as a former Port Commissioner about the reasons for turning back the TIGER grant. He commented that the new Teevin deal may be a plan B.

Bud Shoemake said he thought the Port of Newport was on a good track, and suggested working through Mark Landauer of the Oregon Public Ports Association. He added that the Toledo Port Commission does not like the proposed bill and wants to see the Port in local control.

David Jincks, a commercial fisherman and former Commissioner, spoke about issues with shipping in the past and the most recent proposed shipping deal.

Lamerdin commented that the entire Commission will play a role in meeting with legislators.

**IV. UPDATE ON PROPOSED SHIPPING OPERATION.....**

1:10:14

Dresler introduced the staff report included in the Meeting Packet. She said this is still a very high level discussion with Shawn Teevin, and she was still waiting for a response. Dresler added that there would be some shifting and tightening at the Terminal, but this would be a good challenge. Shawn Teevin told Dresler he would attend a CFUG Committee meeting but is currently out of town. Bretz has spoken with Jim Knight at the Port of Astoria, and will talk with other Ports. Dresler said she would speak with the Port attorney about legal issues and recommendations.

Lackey said that Teevin has a good reputation and he appreciated staff's prep work. He suggested talking to Ports in Washington as well as Oregon. The Commissioners would like to have Shawn Teevin attend a work session.

Mann said that the Commercial Fishing Users Group Committee was enthusiastic about the conversation, its transparency and the willingness of Shawn Teevin to work around dates. She also commented on the use of the Terminal space and the limits of Port Dock 5.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT.....**

1:17:25

Tracy Burchett, longshoreman and Newport resident, talked about the bond in 2006 intending to include shipping at the terminal and spoke about improper influence of the Midwater Trawlers Cooperative.

Terry Thompson commented on changes in the fishing industry.

Cheryl Harle asked the Commission to consider hiring Terry Thompson as a General Manager Pro Tem.

Yale Fogarty, longshoreman and lifelong resident, said he had worked with the Port to make the Terminal a multi-use facility and was not anti-fishing. He mentioned the value of shipping dollars to the Port and jobs to the community. The proposed bill was intended to create leadership at the Port.

Kurt Cochran, fisherman, asked the Commission to take its time to come to a decision, and consider that what impacts the fishing industry will impact other businesses.

Rick Beasley asked about pressure on Gomberg from Portland to get trucks off the road and from agriculture for shipping. Lamerdin encouraged Beasley to talk to Bretz and Dresler after the meeting.

Mike Storey, commercial fisherman spoke about the money brought in by fishing at the terminal in response to Fogarty's comments about shipping dollars, and said he had reservations about Salem making decisions for Newport.

Terry Thompson commented that PACWAVE's future use of the Terminal should also be part of the discussion.

David Gomberg encouraged the Commission to focus on moving forward.

Steve Beck suggested the Port build on what it does well and attract more of that business.

Heather Mann commented that there are not enough docks and it was unrealistic to expect the Terminal revenues to pay for the Port. She said she wanted to see shipping that would work together with fishing. She said the bill undermined what has recently happened at the Port.

Rex Capri, commercial fisherman and Newport resident, commented that the Port belongs to the citizens of the district who approved debt to build the Terminal, and the best interests of all of those citizens should be first and foremost.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT** .....

1:42:52

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

ATTESTED:

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Stewart Lamerdin, President Pro Tem

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Walter Chuck, Secretary/Treasurer Pro Tem