

PORT OF COLUMBIA
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2020

Chairman Marvin opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Marvin, Crowe, and Aschenbrenner, Jennie Dickinson, Kathryn Witherington

Press: Melissa Gemmell, Michele Smith

Public: Lester Eaton, Dewey Bell, Kraig Horlacher, Paula Murdock, Charles Belany, Darcy Belany, Jon Bryan, Marylou Bryan, Seth Bryan, Jeff Huddle, Clair Huddle, Paul Didelius, Kaye Eaton, Wayne Bell, Cindi John, Amy Amerein, Terry Lawhead

Presentation: Chuck Belany presented on the concerns he has around plans for the Touchet Valley Trail. He reported that the petition that's circulated asking that the trail be put on the ballot has received 600 signatures. He had two requests for the commissioners. 1) Walk the proposed trail route. 2) Consider putting an advisory vote for the trail on the ballot. Lester Eaton expressed that he is concerned for liability regarding pesticide usage by the agriculture community, as well as liability on adjacent landowners for trespassing and injuries. Kaye Eaton shared her concerns for adjacent landowners, including horses and other animal feces on the trail. Seth Bryan expressed concern that too much money was being spent on the project, and that it would reach a point where the expenditures dictated the trail move forward, regardless of feasibility. Cindy John shared her concern that recent flooding would have even larger impacts if a trail was flooded. Chuck Belany said he wanted to come back to the next Port Commissioner meeting to hear their response to putting the advisory vote on the ballot.

The previous month's minutes were discussed. **MOTION:** Aschenbrenner motioned to approve the minutes. Crowe seconded. Motion Passed.

The January budget report was discussed. All rent is up to date and there were no large expenses. Utilities were high and there was a charge for snow removal this month.

The Port Commissioners reviewed Resolution #2020-1 – Delegation of Authority. This resolution was modeled after other Ports and puts in writing the authority the executive director already has. **MOTION:** Crowe motioned to adopt the resolution. Aschenbrenner seconded. Motions passed.

Lyons Ferry Marina: The marina has a well regulator that will need to be replaced this year.

Rock Hill Industrial Park: There was no significant maintenance this month. Buildings are full.

Blue Mountain Station: New tenant Bard & Bee Meadery moves in to the Artisan Food Center this month. He plans to be open for business by April. Kaye Eaton expressed that the trees at Blue Mountain Station need to be watered. She was informed that many of the plants are native plants that do not need watering, including some of the trees.

CWW Railroad: Paul Didelius provided details on the February 2020 flood on the rail line. He and Dickinson will be assessing damage and filing a report by 2/20. The damage on the Port-owned rail included 5 sections with significant wash-outs, 3 of which the train could not currently cross. Dickinson will coordinate with him on submitting a FEMA request. This can't be used for the private section owned by UP near Wallula, which sustained considerably more damage. The commissioners reviewed an approval for NoaNet to cross the railroad Right-of-Way. This is the first contract under new property management company RAM. **MOTION:** Aschenbrenner moved to approve the crossing request. Crowe seconded. Motion Carries.

Touchet Valley Trail: Anderson Perry will be performing a LDAR flight soon to be surveying the proposed trail located. The Concept Plan is being refined by the steering committee. Kaye Eaton asked if the final plan would be available for the public. Commissioner Crowe assured her it would be made available once complete.

Executive Director Report: Dickinson reported that the 2020 school levies passed. A new superintendent has been chosen for Dayton School District. She also shared that Puget Sound Energy is working on additional clean energy efforts to meet guidelines set by the state.

Economic Development Director Report: This was Kathryn Witherington's last meeting as an employee of the Port. She'll be taking a new position as Executive Director of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation. She expressed gratefulness for the guidance of the Port commission and the mentorship of Jennie Dickinson in helping her gain the skills needed for the new job. She reported that she's been working over the last three weeks to transition her projects to Dickinson and other stakeholders. She expressed concerns about putting economic development projects on a ballot, fearing it would set a precedent where every project was put to a vote which would effectively halt economic development.

Public Comment at end: Members of the public reiterated concerns around the proposed Touchet Valley Trail. Commissioner Marvin said he would be willing to consider putting the advisory vote on the ballot and asked Dickinson to research the process to do so.

The following vouchers were presented for approval of payment in the approved amount of amount of \$43,490.93.

100348 - 10354	Payroll	15237.26	10370	Touchet Valley Landscapes	1636.8
10355	Banner Bank - 1585	3,205.27	10371	Touchet Valley Television, Inc	65
10356	Banner Bank - 1593	1,475.05	10372	US Linen & Uniform	128.5
10357	Banner Bank - GO Bond - 3946	2,380.98	10373	Waitsburg Times	189
10358	Banner Bank - IB#2 - 1189	4,216.67	10374	Jennifer S Dickinson{O}	76.73
10359	Banner Bank BMC#2 Bond - 9342	2,440.84	10375	Leaf	201.73
10360	Anderson Perry, Inc.	7,175.25	10376	Basin Disposal	34.04
10361	Dayton Chamber of Commerce	2,500.00			
10362	Cardmember Service	34.00			
10363	Kathryn Witherington	85.66			
10364	Crown Paper & Janitorial Supply, Inc	158.19			
10365	Dayton Chronicle	33.00			
10366	MBG Cleaning Services	1,210.00			
10367	Northwest Public Broadcasting	580.00			
10368	Quality Roofing	406.50			
10369	Total Office Concepts	20.46			

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Next meeting will take place on March 11 at Port of Columbia office.


Dan Aschenbrenner, Secretary

PORT OF COLUMBIA

**1 Port Way
Dayton, WA 99328**

RESOLUTION No. 2020-02

A RESOLUTION of the Port of Columbia Board of Commissioners ("Port Commission") ratifying a declaration of emergency by the executive director due to flooding.

WHEREAS, Columbia and Walla Walla Counties experienced severe flooding between February 5 and February 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Columbia owns approximately 37 miles of rail line in Columbia and Walla Walla Counties; and

WHEREAS, several areas of the Port-owned rail line were damaged in the flood and present an immediate danger to persons and property; and

WHEREAS, section 11.1.a of the operating agreement between Port and CWW, LLC requires that any rehabilitation work resulting from a catastrophic loss of any kind or nature shall not be the Lessee's responsibly; and

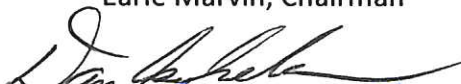
WHEREAS, after assessing the damage, the Port executive director declared an emergency on February 19, 2020 and waived competitive bidding requirements as authorized by Washington State RCW 39.04.280 in order to make emergency repairs; and

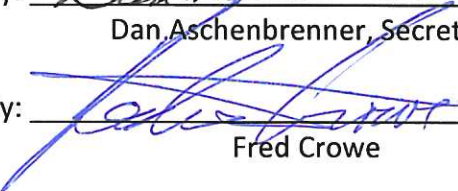
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Port of Columbia Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the emergency declaration, the waiving of competitive bidding requirements, and the authorization of emergency expenditures as determined by the executive director.

Adopted this 11th day of March, 2020 by the Port of Columbia Board of Commissioners

PORT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: 
Earle Marvin, Chairman

By: 
Dan Aschenbrenner, Secretary

By: 
Fred Crowe

