

**THE PORT DISTRICT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
Held at Port Office Conference Room, 1804 Scott Rd, Freeland, WA  
Monday, May 16, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

**AGENDA**

SPECIAL MEETING CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (8:00 a.m.)

**Fairgrounds**

- Review and approve ballot consultant agreement

ADJOURNMENT (Approximately 8:15 a.m.)

WORK SESSION (Approximately 8:15 – 10:00 a.m.)

## PORT DISTRICT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

Minutes of the Special Meeting

May 16, 2016

Freeland, Washington

**Commissioners Present:** Ed Halloran (Langley), Jack Ng (Freeland) and Curt Gordon (Clinton)

**Port Staff:** Angi Mozer (Executive Director) and Molly MacLeod-Roberts (Port Clerk)

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER:** The Special Meeting of the Port District of South Whidbey Island's Board of Commissioners was convened on Monday, May 16, 2016, in the Port office conference room at 1804 Scott Rd. in Freeland, WA. As announced, the primary purpose of the Special Meeting was for the Commission to address the items on the Agenda. Although the Meeting was of course open to the public, it was scheduled primarily for Commission consideration, discussion and action on those specific issues and public participation was not on the Agenda.

Commissioner Ed Halloran, President, called the Special Meeting to order at 8:06 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Fairgrounds**

- Review and approve ballot consultant agreement: J. Marie Riche, Founder & Principal Consultant of Ideal Communications, had previously submitted her resume and a Project Proposal in the amount of \$3,000 to provide the Port with Communications Support for the August 2016 Election for the transfer of ownership of the Fairgrounds property to the Port from Island County and the levy increase of \$0.05 per thousand dollars of assessed property value. Riche was on hand to answer any questions. There were none.

**ACTION: A Motion was made by Gordon and seconded by Ng to approve Ideal Communications' Proposal to provide communications support for the August 2016 election for the total amount of \$3,000. The Motion passed unanimously.**

Riche provided a brief overview of the election process. The Port Commission and Staff have a responsibility to communicate fully, accurately and neutrally about the ballot measure, and the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has a role in policing that across the state. No Port resources (including employee's time, Port email accounts, copiers, etc.) may be used to advocate for a YES vote. Any advocacy work must be done by citizens on citizens' time. As elected officials, unlike the employees, the Commissioners are expected to have an opinion. The Commissioners are therefore less restricted than employees in that any time they are out in public they can describe the ballot measure in factual terms and advocate for it. If employees wish to advocate, they must do it on their own time, using their personal email, etc. The PDC allows political action committees to advocate for/against measures ("Vote Yes" campaigns, etc.). Riche reiterated that the Commissioners do have a responsibility to educate the voters in the community about the proposal.

She will assist in developing the Voter Information Guide (Fact Sheet) to describe the measure and the Commission's rationale in putting it on the ballot, including identifying the benefits and the risks (the cost, i.e. increase in levy). Riche encouraged the Port to hold Open Houses to talk about the measure and answer questions. And from now until the election, Commissioners and Port staff will be available to answer questions as they come in with good information.

Later in the day, Riche will meet with some citizens in the South Whidbey community who are interested in forming a political action committee in support of the Port's ballot measure. That committee's activities may include sending "vote yes" postcards to voters that will arrive around the same time as the ballots do, yard signs, hosting neighbor coffee sessions, etc.

The Port will get its Fact Sheet out in early July prior to the last Open House. However, the citizen's committee will not really be visibly active until the weekend before the ballots are mailed out. Then the committee might send postcards, print & distribute yard signs, make "GOTV" (Get Out The Vote) telephone calls, create a Facebook page, etc.

After the Commission approved and adopted Resolution No. 16-03, the Port's legal counsel advised the Port that the ballot needs to include the total rate per thousand, not just the percent of increase. Executive Director Angi Mozer filed Resolution No. 16-03 at the Island County Auditor's Office last Thursday with a letter amending the Resolution as follows:

The AMENDMENT to the ballot measure reads as follows (with changes underlined):

"The Board of Commissioners of the Port District of South Whidbey Island adopted Resolution No. 2016-3 concerning the Island County Fairgrounds Property and a property tax increase to support it. This proposition would authorize the District to accept the transfer of the Fairgrounds property from Island County and would authorize the District to increase its property tax levy rate to support Fairgrounds expenses by 5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (to an aggregate \$0.183 per \$1,000) for collection in 2017, as allowed by Chapter 84.55 RCW. Thereafter, such levy amount would be used to compute limitations for subsequent years as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. Should this proposition be:

APPROVED.....

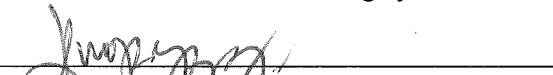
REJECTED.....

The Port's levy is currently about 13 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. The additional five cents per thousand equates to approximately \$200,000 of additional property taxes. For the owner of a home assessed at \$300,000, approval would result in an increase of \$15 per year.

ADJOURNMENT: The Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 a.m.


Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Ed Halloran, Langley

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Jack Ng, Freeland

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Curt Gordon, Clinton

Minutes reviewed by:

  
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Angi Mozer, Executive Director

**Public Disclosure Statement:** The foregoing Meeting Minutes, audio recording and all supporting documents presented are available at the Port of South Whidbey, 1804 Scott Rd., Suite 101, Freeland WA 98249.

**Work Session:** The previously announced public Work Session began immediately following adjournment of the Special Meeting. The Work Session ended at 9:46 a.m. with no action taken.

[Note: No actions are taken during Work Sessions, which provide an opportunity in an informal workshop format for the Board to review and discuss general Port business.]