

PORT DISTRICT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND
Minutes of the Public Hearing for the 2009 Preliminary Budget
October 14, 2009
Freeland, Washington

Present at the meeting were:

Commissioner Rolf Seitle, Langley
Commissioner Geoff Tapert, Freeland
Ed Field, Port Manager
Chuck Edwards, Port Accountant
Dane Anderson, Port Financial Manager
Molly MacLeod-Roberts, Port Clerk
Rick Brewer, Harbormaster

Chris Jerome, Langley Resident
Mona Newbauer, Clinton Resident
Tony Newbauer, Clinton Resident
Mike Rosenwood, Freeland Resident
Dean Enell, Langley Resident
Curt Gordon, Clinton Resident
Phil Simon, Freeland Resident
Eric Levine, Langley Resident

Absent: None

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Hearing for the 2009 Preliminary Budget of the Port District of South Whidbey Island was convened by the Board of Commissioners on October 14, 2009, at the Freeland Library Conference Room in Freeland, WA. Commissioner Geoff Tapert, President, called the Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. STAFF COMMENTS FOR 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:

Port Manager Ed Field reported that the 2010 Preliminary Budget (**EXHIBIT A**), resulting from discussions regarding the draft budget and Commission direction at the regular September meeting, had been advertised and available to the public as required. He noted that a spreadsheet error was found after the first week, but it has been subsequently corrected, and the updated version as distributed at the Hearing has been available for the last week or so at the Port office and on the Port's website at www.portofsouthwhidbey.com.

Ed said there were no major changes, and went through the minor changes recommended by Staff.

Line 3 – Marina Revenue-Moorage & Utilities: Total reduced to \$135,000 from \$138,777, based on September moorage revenue and revised annual projections for 2009.

Line 74 – Possession/Capital Improvements: Ed noted that information from the Possession manager indicated that the \$20,000 space holder for the roof replacement and reworking of the heating system was still a good estimate and a good working number, and use of available in-house labor for both projects could save significantly.

Line 14 – WPPA meetings: Ed suggested changing the line description to “**Meetings & Education**” to include WPPA meetings, Pacific Coast Conference of Harbormasters (PCC) meetings, and other educational meetings/seminars. Staff proposed increasing the amount to \$1,000 accordingly.

Lines 123 & 124 – Breakwater Maint Wages & Breakwater Maint Payroll Taxes: Ed explained that at the recent PCC, Harbormaster Rick Brewer learned that there is an impressive grant reimbursement system (75%) from the State of Washington for all maintenance, repairs and possibly operating costs on the pumpout barge. Since the Port will most likely have to pay for inspection/evaluation/repair of the existing barge in 2010, Staff recommendation is to change the no-longer-used Breakwater line descriptions to “**Pumpout System Wages**” and “**Pumpout System Maintenance & Repair**” to facilitate tracking. Staff also proposed a budget of \$2,000 for the maintenance & repair, which should represent \$8,000 worth of work with grant assistance.

The Commission agreed with all of the above Staff-recommended changes

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:

Commissioner Tapert opened the meeting to public comment.

Chris Jerome, Langley Resident: Jerome noted that **Line 10-Grant funding** had been reduced by \$45,000, and asked why. Ed explained that the recommendation of the Commission was to carry only hard costs for design, permit and engineering as opposed to including reimbursement for in-house staff costs. Commissioner Seitle noted that the \$395,000 from the Rural County Economic Development Funds (\$.09 grant money) in the 2010 budget on **Line 10** is now equivalent to the Capital Expenditures for South Whidbey Harbor listed in **Lines 50, 51 and 52**.

Dean Enell, Langley Resident: Regarding the new Scenic Isleway sign, Enell noted that the County has decided to leave the Welcome to Whidbey sign at its current location but add the new sign at the same location. Since the new cement pad at Campbell Road will not be used for the relocated Welcome to Whidbey sign, Enell explained that Langley is interested in using it for an artistic sign to promote Langley. He asked if the \$7,500 budgeted in **Line 45-Tourism & Business Dev** was for relocating the sign. Commissioner Tapert said it was not, and explained that the money in that line item is allocated through the Application for Funds process in March and September of each year. He added that since it is for Capital Expenditures, there are fewer applications for that money than there are for the funds from **Line 12-Trade Fair/Sponsorships**, which is used for things like advertising events, etc. The City of Langley or the Chamber of Commerce could formally apply for the funds in March 2010.

Eric Levine, Langley Resident: Levine said he supported the idea of using the pad for a sign promoting Langley and said they would be forming a committee.

Mike Rosenwood, Freeland Resident: Rosenwood identified himself as one of the permanent moorage residents at the South Whidbey Harbor. He said he spent his entire career working for public agencies, so he knows how they operate. He said he was delighted that the Port took over the Harbor because it was neglected for years and years; he gave kudos to the Port and Harbormaster Rick and said that the improvements had been dramatic. Rosenwood encouraged the current Commission and all the current candidates for commissioner to regularly visit the Harbor and see what’s going on. In order to get the revenue, the facility needs to be properly maintained and properly staffed, even in the off-season. He said, “Thank you for taking it over. Thank you for what’s been done. Support the effort, and support the staff in their efforts.” Commissioner Tapert thanked him for his comments, and pointed out that they will be hiring an Assistant Harbormaster to work ¾ time.

Commissioner Tapert asked if there any other comments from the attendees regarding the 2010 Preliminary Budget. There were none.

4. COMMISSION DISCUSSION FOR 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:

The Commission had no additional significant discussion.

ACTION: A Motion was made by Commissioner Seitle and seconded by Commissioner Tapert to approve the 2010 Preliminary Budget as discussed and revised herein. The Motion passed unanimously.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Approved:

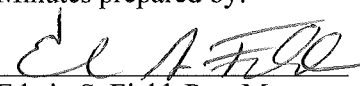


Commissioner Geoff Tapert, Freeland



Commissioner Rolf Seitle, Langley

Minutes prepared by:



Edwin S. Field, Port Manager

Exhibit A: Draft 2010 Preliminary Budget