

PORT DISTRICT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

Minutes of the Special Meeting

April 13, 2010

Langley, Washington

Present at the meeting were:

Commissioner Geoff Tapert, Freeland
Commissioner Curt Gordon, Clinton
Ed Field, Port Manager
Dane Anderson, Port Financial Manager
Molly MacLeod-Roberts, Port Clerk
Duncan McPhee, Asst. Harbormaster

Carl Robinson, Freeland Resident
Tony Puma, Boatyard Inn Co-Owner
Tony & Catherine Billera, Clinton Residents

Absent: Commissioner Chris Jerome, Langley

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting of the Port District of South Whidbey Island's Board of Commissioners was convened on April 13, 2010, in the meeting room of the South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District building at 5475 Maxwellton Road in Langley, WA. As announced, the Special Meeting was intended to solicit public comment on the Port's proposed application to the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for funding of the first phase (Phase 1A) of the proposed expansion of the South Whidbey Harbor at Langley (**EXHIBIT A**). Commissioner Tapert, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

Port Financial Manager Dane Anderson explained that RCO administers the BIG program for the U.S. Department of Interior. One of the BIG application requirements is that the Board must adopt a resolution to approve application for the Boating Infrastructure Grant itself, and in that resolution, there is a requirement to take public comment on the BIG application. This special meeting was convened to provide that opportunity for the public to comment on the grant application and thus meet the RCO requirement.

Tony Puma, Co-Owner of The Boatyard Inn: Puma strongly advised the Board move forward with the grant application. As a property owner and small business owner in Langley, as well as a boater, he explained that he has been an advocate of the expansion of the marina for transient moorage. He said, "I believe transient moorage is the most vital thing to the economic development of the area because it provides the opportunity to attract visitors." He is interested in both boating individuals and boating groups, even those that sign long-term leases. Puma added that during the six weeks that the Washington State Ferries catamaran "Chinook" was at the nearby Nichols' dock, there were many marine professionals who stayed at the Boatyard Inn. He believed that if there was additional transient

moorage inside an expanded marina, then the outside of the marina could be for larger craft that employ people with a maritime component. He closed by saying, "Go get 'em – I think this is a worthy thing."

Tony Billera, Clinton Resident: Billera said he supported the Port's application for the BIG program. He recently moved to Whidbey Island and owns a sailboat. He said the South Whidbey Harbor is a great location for pleasure boating and it brings a lot of revenue to the town. He thinks the expanded marina would easily fill with boaters as it is such an ideal destination, and could also be used for sailboat racing. Billera added that he would like to see improvements to the ramp at Langley accelerated. Commissioner Tapert noted that the Port has been maintaining/cleaning the ramp and plans to add floats. He asked Billera if he thought the weekly maintenance and the addition of floats were enough improvements, or did he think the ramp needed to be reconstructed. Billera believed adding floats would be a major improvement and would be enough.

The Commissioners agreed they wanted the Port to go forward with the BIG application. Billera added that Harbormaster Rick Brewer and Assistant Harbormaster Duncan McPhee are doing an awesome job.

There was no additional public comment.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Approved:



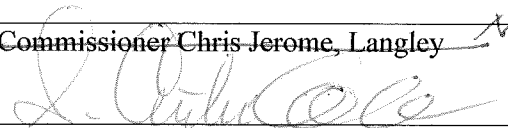
Commissioner Geoff Tapert, Freeland

Minutes prepared by:



Edwin S. Field, Port Manager

~~Commissioner Chris Jerome, Langley~~



Commissioner Curt Gordon, Clinton

Not Present

Exhibit A: Draft BIG Application