

**MINUTES OF THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025
REGULAR IN-PERSON/HYBRID MEETING**

Commissioners:

Bobby Briscoe
Ken Bell
Michael Shepard

President
Vice President
Secretary

Consent Agenda
Item # A

Staff:

Rob Fix
Holly Stafford
Tamara Sobjack
Tiffany DeSimone
Stephanie Wiley
Brian Gouran
Tyler Schroeder
Matt Rodriguez
Aaron Bisson
Tracy Lewis

Executive Director
Port Legal Counsel
Chief Financial Officer
Director of Maritime
Community Outreach Manager
Director of Environmental and Planning Svcs.
Director of Economic Development
Airport Operations Manager
Harbormaster
Executive Assistant

2:30 PM OPEN PUBLIC MEETING, IMMEDIATELY RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 2:30 PM, Commissioner Bell opened the public meeting and announced the purposes of the executive session:

- To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price – RCW 42.30.110(1)(b).
- To consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price. However, final action selling or leasing public property shall be taken in a meeting open to the public - RCW 42.30.110 (1)(c).
- To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

4:00 PM CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENED PUBLIC MEETING

At approximately 4:00 PM, Commissioner Briscoe closed the executive session and reconvened the regular meeting, and announced all Commissioners were present.

READ ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Marina Advisory Committee (MAC), March 11 @ 6 PM at the Port Admin Office Harbor Center Room, IN-PERSON ONLY.
- Bellingham International Airport Advisory Committee (BIAAC), April 17 @ 4 PM at the Airport Rescue Firefighting Station and on Zoom.

4:00 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Briscoe stated there are two Public Comment periods: One at 4:00 PM and another at the end of the meeting. Out of respect for everyone who attends the Commission meeting, each public comment period may be limited to 15 minutes total. Speakers are asked to keep their comments to less than 3 minutes. Please feel free to submit further comments in writing.

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion to approve minutes from February 18, 2025 Regular Scheduled Commission Meeting
- B. Motion authorizing the Executive Director to execute the First Amendment to Consent Decree No. 14-2-02593-5 for the Cornwall Avenue Landfill
- C. Motion authorizing the Executive Director to accept a grant from the Department of Ecology in the amount of \$300,000, and amend the Port's 2025 budget to add \$300,000 for a new capital project – Whatcom Creek Estuary Habitat Enhancements
- D. Motion to approve a modification to the rental rate and damage deposit for two rotating Containers at the Portal Container Village
- E. Motion to approve budget allocation to obtain Certificate of Occupancy for Marine Drive Industrial Park Buildings with a change in use

Discussion: None

Motion: Approve Consent Agenda Items A-E

Motion approved 3-0 Vote

PRESENTATIONS

1. Bellingham International Airport Traffic Control Tower Staffing Update (presented by Matt Rodriguez)
 - Discussion included clarification that the Port of Bellingham has no control over the FAA and hiring of controllers. Management has written letters to the FAA, the Airport District Office and had communications with NavCanada, SERCO, Commercial Carriers' Chief Pilots, and met with state and federal legislature.
 - These communications have resulted in some temporary controllers arriving in March and April and the FAA communicating that they are working to get additional controllers hired.
2. Marinas Rules and Regulations Update (presented by Tiffany DeSimone)
 - The presentation is a result of collaboration with the Marina Advisory Committee (MAC) and there will be a future moorage rate discussion. This presentation was to clarify some policy changes.
 - At the March 18th Commission meeting, there will be an action item that will include feedback from this discussion.
3. Meetings and Events Facility Rental Rates Update (presented by Stephanie Wiley)
4. Strategic Planning Update (presented by Rob Fix)
 - Discussion on having a work study meeting regarding the Bellingham International Airport Industrial Park on the morning of April 1 with Commissioners and staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Briscoe called for a second public comment period. Commissioners heard public comments from one individual.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Commissioner Briscoe asked for the May 20th meeting to be moved or cancelled due to a family obligation, and it was decided it would be cancelled.

COMMISSIONER BRISCOE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 5:55 PM



President/Vice President



Secretary