

**MINUTES OF THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM
COMMISSION MEETING
HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
REGULAR IN-PERSON/REMOTE MEETING**

Present:	Commissioners:	
	President	Ken Bell
	Vice President	Michael Shepard
	Secretary	Bobby Briscoe
Staff:	Rob Fix	Executive Director
	Jon Sitkin	Port Legal Counsel
	Don Goldberg	Director of Economic Development
	Gina Stark	Economic Development Project Manager
	Jennifer Noveck	Economic Dev. Research & Communications Mgr.
	Brian Gouran	Director of Environment & Planning
	Carey Jones	Executive Assistant

3:00 PM OPEN PUBLIC MEETING, IMMEDIATELY RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 3:00 PM, President Ken Bell opened the public meeting, and then immediately recessed to Executive Session. The purpose of the executive session will be to discuss potential real estate transaction(s) pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (i) (c).

4:00 PM CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION; RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING, ROLL CALL

At approximately 4:00 PM, President Ken Bell closed the executive session, opened the public meeting, and announced that all three Commissioners were present.

Commissioner Bell announced the upcoming Advisory Committee Meetings:

- Marina Advisory Committee (MAC) – October 12th @ 6 PM
- Bellingham International Airport Advisory Committee (BIAAC) – November 18th @ 4 PM

4:00 PM PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD-

Peter Basabe a Bellingham resident made comments on the marine trade industry.

CONSENT AGENDA-

- Approve minutes from the September 7, 2021 regular scheduled commission meeting.
- Motion authorizing the Executive Director to execute an amendment to Easement No. 51-087624 with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for the placement and storage of fill material on a portion of the Cornwall Avenue Landfill.
- Ratify the Executors approval of the following contracts:
 - Dawson Construction, LLC- Waterfront District Peter Paulsen Stage (\$61,959)
 - Rawls Electric, LLC- Re-Power Dockside Pump Station (\$190,400)
- Ouilette Brothers Yacht Sales, Inc. & Ouilette Brothers Charters, Inc.- Commercial Leases:
 - Motion by the Port Commission to approve a Commercial Lease between the Port of Bellingham and Ouilette Brothers Yacht Sales, Inc., doing business as Bellingham Yacht Sales for premises at 1801 Roeder Avenue, Suites 168 and 174.

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- b) Motion by the Port Commission to approve a Commercial Lease between the Port of Bellingham and Ouilette Brothers Yacht Charters Inc., doing business as Bellingham Yacht Charters for premises at 1801 Roeder Avenue, Suite 164.

Motion: Approve Consent Agenda items A - D

Discussion: No comments

Motion approved with a 3 - 0 Vote

PRESENTATION

1. Whatcom County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Update

Discussion: Director of Economic Development Don Goldberg introduced Economic Development Research & Communications Manager Jennifer Noveck. Jennifer covered the CEDs Processes, the Stakeholder Groups involved, Regional SWOT Analysis breakout, Opportunities and Challenges for businesses in Whatcom County, Goals, and Action Plan.

Commissioner Briscoe brought up the SWOT Analysis Report, and asked Jennifer where she got that information. Jennifer reported the information came from multiple stakeholders. Bobby said he has personal experience with the US Customs, and he believes this information to be false, "Lack of US Customs Port of Entry on the water". Jennifer thanked Bobby for his input and said she will update the report.

Commissioner Shepard said this is a well-written document that covers a variety of needs, and presents new opportunities.

Commissioner Bell is concerned about this document collecting dust on a shelf.

Commissioner Briscoe asked Don Goldberg about the Infrastructure I5 Corridor Study.

END OF MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD-

Peter Basabe a Bellingham resident made comments on the CEDs Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Shepard mentioned MTCA funding language, new tax on dark fiber (Department of Revenue), and asked Economic Development Project Manager Gina Stark to give a brief Broadband update. Gina gave the Commissioner an update on the State funding and current planning and next steps on the Nooksack development area.

Commissioner Briscoe asked about MTCA funding. Director of Environment & Planning Brian Gouran said the MTCA funding for Port projects continues to look good but the Port and WPPA are working to address a new requirement of having permits in hand prior to getting funding.

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Commissioner Bell said he is thrilled the Port is going to be involved in the Broadband last mile work. Ken also encouraged the community to review the Ports 2022 Budget (Posted on the Ports Website) and provide feedback.

Commissioner Briscoe gave a shout out to the Port Staff that works on keeping the Port Website up to date. Executive Director Rob Fix gave a shout out to Port employees Mike Hogan, Carey Jones and the IT Department for their work to keep the Website current.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:09 PM.



President, Ken Bell



Vice President, Michael Shepard

