

**MINUTES OF THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025
REGULAR IN-PERSON/HYBRID MEETING**

Commissioners:

**Consent Agenda
Item # B**

Bobby Briscoe
Ken Bell
Michael Shepard

President
Vice President
Secretary

Staff:

Tiffany DeSimone
Holly Stafford
Judy Harvy
Tamara Sobjack
Terry Iahli
Tracy Lewis
Tyler Shroeder

Interim Executive Director
Port Legal Counsel
Senior Property Manager
Chief Financial Officer/Auditor
Senior Property Manager
Executive Assistant
Director of Economic Development

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

At approximately 2:30 pm, Commissioner Briscoe opened the public meeting and announced the purpose of the executive session:

- RCW 42.30.110 (c) - 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 (g) - To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.
- RCW 42.30.110 (i) - To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or 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.

4:00 – 4:20 PM EXTENSION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Briscoe extended the Executive Session for 20 minutes.

4:20 PM OPENED PUBLIC MEETING

At approximately 4:20 pm, Commissioner Briscoe opened the regular meeting, and announced all Commissioners were present.

READ ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Marina Advisory Committee (MAC), October 14th at 6 pm in the Harbor Center
- Bellingham International Airport Advisory Committee (BIAAC), December 18th @ 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.

Commissioners heard public comments from 7 individuals. To access the recording visit [October 7th, 2025 | Port Commission Meeting.](#)

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion to approve minutes from September 23, 2025 Regular Meeting
- B. Motion to approve minutes from September 25, 2025 Special Meeting/Budget Retreat
- C. Motion to authorize the Interim Executive Director to enter into an insurance contract and authorize payment for the renewal of the Port's liability and auto insurance coverage for the period from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- D. Motion to approve authorizing the Executive Director to execute an Agreed Order to perform remedial design at the Weldcraft Steel and Marine cleanup site

Discussion: None

Motion: Approve Consent Agenda Items A-D

Motion Approved 3-0 Vote

PRESENTATION

1. Deb Granger and Sierra Oliver with the Whatcom Working Waterfront Foundation gave their annual presentation and outlined the apprenticeship program and its curriculum. Kaiden Pope was introduced as a student who participated in the Buoyant Beginnings Program this past summer, gained employment and is now enrolled in the apprenticeship program.

The Whatcom Working Waterfront Foundation partnered with Lummi Nation for the Buoyant Beginning Pre-Apprenticeship Program (a 6-week summer program). Joe Franzen is the Program Coordinator with the Lummi Nation, and he worked with the Foundation this past summer. He spoke to the collaboration opportunity and explained that youth employment readiness in marine trades isn't just about skills, it's about cultural continuity and economic sovereignty.

The Foundation expressed its gratitude for its partners and explained how they are looking to expand programs within high schools for students to obtain high school credits while earning a wage.

Discussion: Commission expressed their gratitude for the program and the workforce training that is offered through the Foundation. Commissioners expressed the importance for young people to gain this training and get into marine trades. The Port is willing to look at training facilities to help the Foundation and businesses offer workforce training for young people to get training to move into marine trade employment. This would not only be beneficial to our community but to local businesses.

2. Tyler Schroeder presented the 800 Cornwall Master Lease and Sublease with Pure Blue Tech. Explained that Pure Blue Tech would be moving from an 8,000 sq. ft. to the 48,000 sq. ft. facility to accommodate their growth and the increased need for space for manufacturing. He has been looking at the trends of past tenants at 800 Cornwall and the industrial land study. He will be looking for options for Blue Tech to continue their growth and have a need to move into 80,000-150,000 sq. ft. facility and retain their business in Whatcom County. They currently employ 15 people, and the larger building would allow them to increase to 50-75 employees.

Discussion: Commission is grateful to the Economic Development Department and Real Estate that they are working with current tenants and offering options for growth and expansion and for keeping the business in Whatcom County.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve a Renewal and Modification of lease for Bakerview Hangar LLC for property located at Bellingham International Airport (presented by Terry Iahli).

Discussion: None

Motion Approved 3-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Briscoe called for a final public comment period. Commissioners heard no comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Thank you to all those who participated in SeaFeast. Commissioner Briscoe encourages fellow boat owners to participate next year. Commissioner Briscoe asks staff to look into moving the commercial to Sawtooth to assist with the traffic congestion. SeaSeast was a great success, and Commissioners would like to see it grow even more next year.
2. Commissioner Bell wanted clarification on the public comment offered earlier regarding Zazen Salon and Fenex Coffee. Judy Harvy was asked to provide some facts and explain the defaults that have led to the staff's recommendation to end the lease.

COMMISSIONER BRISCOE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 5:55 PM



President/Vice President



Secretary