

Port of Shelton

Special Commission Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hupp called to order the special meeting of the Port of Shelton Commission at 1:00 p.m. on September 28, 2009 in the Port of Shelton Commission Chambers.

The following persons were present: Commissioner Byrd, Commissioner Miles, John Dobson, Executive Director; Terra Dittmer, Office Manager; County Commissioner's Sheldon, Gallagher, and Ring-Erikson; Rhonda Chambers, LeiLani Dixon, Julie Gray, Daryl Cleveland, Nancy Moran, Karen Randall, Tom Wallitner, Dedrick Allan, KMAS.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT/CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

No public comment made.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Commissioner Miles moved to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Byrd seconded; motion carried.

V.

VI.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Mason County Commission/Fairgrounds

Mason County Commissioners advised the Port of Shelton Commissioners the County needs to terminate the lease for the Fairgrounds. Mason County Commissioners stated reduced revenues are making it difficult to continue to fund maintenance and staff for the facility. They also states as County Commissioners, their first priority to the citizens of Mason County is to ensure the mandated services they are responsible for, would be funded first.

Commissioner Sheldon also stated the County's insurance provider, Washington Counties Risk Pool, advised against subleasing the Fairgrounds to a private company because the County would still be liable. This would also mean the county would have to continue to pay insurance premiums to cover the Fairgrounds and request a private company to carry up to ten million dollars in insurance.

The Port Commissioners told the County Commissioners that they don't have the staff to maintain the facility and they will have similar liability concerns. They said due to a lack of staff to maintain and operate the Fairgrounds they may have to close the gates and lock them. The Port would like to see the County continue to lease the facility for the remaining years on the lease and allow a private company to run it. They said it would allow a private company to get on their feet before having to pay the fair market value for the property, which is what the Port would have to charge. The Port would need to get the fair market value for the 69 acres, which would be close to \$75,000.00 a year.

There was discussion about what can be done to keep certain events such as the Mason County Fair, Oysterfest, etc., continuing on at the Fairgrounds, under a Port of Shelton agreement.

The Port Commissioners said they were having a workshop on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 2:30 to discuss and brainstorm how they would handle the return of the Fairgrounds.