

**PORT OF ALLYN
ALL PORTS MEETING
January 17, 2019
MINUTES**

The purpose of the Special Meeting was for all the Mason County Ports to come together and discuss issues of common concern. The Meeting took place in the Port of Allyn meeting room.

The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:07pm with the flag salute.

Present were Port of Allyn Commissioners Judy Scott, Scott Cooper and Ted Jackson; Lary Coppola, Port of Allyn Executive Director; Don O'Keefe, Travis Merrill and LeAnn Dennis, Port of Allyn staff. Also in attendance were Commissioners Dick Taylor, Kristi Buck and Sue Patterson from the Port of Shelton. Commissioner Ted Edwards, Manager Jeana Crosby, and volunteer Treasurer Kris Tompkins from the Port of Dewatto; Marine Facilities Director James Weaver from the Port of Bremerton; Commissioner Jack Bailey from the Port of Brownsville; and representing the Port of Grapeview was Bob Pastore. Also attending the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Madden, public members from Mason Lake (Port of Grapeview) along with Sheriff Casey Salisbury, Deputy Ryan Spurling and Dana Kampa, press.

Port of Allyn Commission Chair Scott Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:07 with the flag salute and introductions of all the attendees and where they were from.

Commissioner Cooper turned the meeting over to Port of Allyn Executive Director Lary Coppola to begin with Port reports. Mr. Coppola asked Brownsville Commissioner Bailey to explain how the Kitsap All Ports meetings go, since he chairs that group. Commissioner Bailey explained that they do introductions, then Port reports and then get into different projects and what each Port can do to help, support or make suggestions to the other Ports. He discussed a couple of examples that included the new dock at Waterman, as well as problem solving, and help with permits. They also send out a meeting notice in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OMPA) that states all the Ports that will be represented.

Jeana Crosby from the Port of Dewatto asked how often meetings were held, and Commissioner Bailey answered quarterly. The discussion turned to staff issues, and what staff can and can't do in the way of maintenance and construction. The Port of Shelton pays for staff time, while Commissioner Bailey stated their staff tracks their time and mileage, which saves the Port money not having to hire contractors.

Port of Allyn: Executive Director Coppola detailed how the Port of Allyn is currently looking at its water system rates. It's also been working on acquiring property and has submitted for RCO grant funding to do so. He went on to discuss the dock upgrades, parking upgrades at the North Shore boat launch, and potential acquisition of the 3D Building in Belfair to be used as a co-working center. He also let everyone know about the rebates offered by US Bank. The discussion then turned to the Oyster House.

Commissioner Judy Scott spoke about hiring lobbyists to secure Capital Budget money to finish the project because the Allyn Historic Society hasn't been able to raise enough money to complete the project. The Port elected to take the project over, including demolition of the old launch ramp where the Oyster House will go, and how once complete, it will become a museum. And finally he discussed the partnership with Salmon Center to acquire and develop Sweetwater Park in Belfair.

Port of Shelton: Commissioner Dick Taylor spoke for the Commission, and discussed their properties. He said they have just sold the Shelton Marina to the Shelton Yacht Club after a lengthy public process, as it was not making money, was in need of some expensive repairs, and they would have had to ask taxpayers for more tax money. He discussed their Johns Prairie light industrial property, noting it is a money maker due to the five marijuana businesses located there. They couldn't

put them at Sanderson Field, as that is federal property, and marijuana is still illegal at the federal level. Commissioner Taylor discussed the other industries that are in their buildings, mentioning another tenant that is looking to grow. In addition, they have some aerospace tenants, and forest products companies among others. He also stated that CERB loans/grants have been very beneficial to them, and said the Port of Shelton is willing to help other Ports if they need any assistance in applying for those.

He noted that while aviation-related business needed to be located by the runway, access to their rail, air and deep-water Port facilities can be used to ship products anywhere - which is a major bonus that helps them recruit tenants.

Asked what they are going to do with the marina, Commissioner Taylor answered that when the Commission decided to sell, they began a completely open and transparent public process that included open houses, meetings, and a weekend public meeting so working people could attend. When they finished the process, there was NO pushback from the community as they were completely open and held so many public hearings. The Port of Dewatto asked about how many people come to their meetings.

Port of Dewatto: Jeana Crosby is the new manager. She is new to the Port realm and said Kris Thompkins has been a great help to her. Commissioner Ted Edwards discussed their former longtime Port manager, noting they had difficulty hiring someone because of their location and logistics. Kris Tompkins, the former City of Port Orchard Treasurer for more than 30 years, stated she is retired and lives out there.

Commissioner Edwards stated they are getting a handle on organizing the old records and then moved into discussing their comp plan, and the designation of the Port's building as an emergency operations center. He also discussed DNR conservation and resource activity within their District.

Port of Grapeview: Bob Pastore had to leave for a Port of Grapeview Special Meeting so he introduced himself as an involved citizen, but made it clear he does not represent the Port of Grapeview in any way other than advocacy. He stated they got their boat ramp replaced and new float installed with RCO grant funds. At tonight's meeting the Commissioner are discussing a major property acquisition.

He added that he wishes that there was a Mason County All-Ports Association, and that this is a good forum for discussion of common concerns. Mr. Pastore then discussed water safety issues, pointedly noting the big issue we are all facing about water safety is legalization of marina rules. He opined that Sheriff Casey was going to speak about how they have no funding. He recommended all the Ports put a committee together to see if there is a way that the Ports could collectively raise funds (maybe even a penny tax) saying there is power in numbers.

Port of Allyn Commissioner Cooper then gave an intro as to why Sheriff Salisbury and Deputy Spurling were invited - to discuss the Marina Rules situation.

The Sheriff started by saying that they only get invited to meetings when someone wants something. He discussed their agency's frustration dealing with community groups, noting that the last time there was committee (from the county) to find ways to help fund Sheriff's Office, they ended up getting their funding cut.

The Sheriff added that he has been talking to the Prosecutors office about the Marina Rules situation. He agrees with Mr. Pastore, saying that like schools do, the Ports should find a way to fund an officer. He said the Department can't write checks without cash in the bank and they have to prioritize their efforts. As an example, he said they had a report of a child missing tonight, and asked with was a higher priority - ticketing someone at a launch ramp or finding that child.

He stated that the marina rules criminalization is something for the Ports to work out with County Commissioners, who will then go to the Prosecutor.

He stated he is very concerned about public safety and is very discouraged by the County's strategic plan. He gave examples, such as the fact they have a lot of new, young officers leaving the force, and it's depressing. He said the new officers make arrests, but can't put anyone in jail because its full. So they apply and get hired in a different County where they can actually do their job. He noted that private contracts have worked in Hoodspout, so maybe the Ports can come up with something like that.

He was asked how much does a deputy cost? He answered that its more than one officers salary, it's cars, equipment, etc. He mentioned schools, saying they have to take the officers they have off the street, and to go to a call at a school. He stated his priority is to get resource officers for the schools, and he put in for three new deputies to try to get deputies in the schools for safety reasons - especially with the environment today with all the school shootings. He noted the North Mason School District pays \$80,000 a year from August to July for a school Resource Officer.

Deputy Ryan Spurling then discussed the patrol division. He looks at his 32 deputies answering 24,000 calls for service. A lot of other areas have cities which hire deputies for schools, but there's no cities here except Shelton, which puts a tremendous strain on their division. By comparison, he said the State Patrol only answers 17,000 calls in this area, so his guys are REALLY busy. He also discussed the fact they only have a small marine division, which adds to the issue of Marina Rules enforcement.

Brownsville Commissioner Bailey emphasized the fact that all they want is the ability to post signs, and for Port staff have the ability to write a ticket, with the ticket money going to the County. But Ports need their Marina Rules codified similar to what the Port of Kingston has accomplished.

Port of Allyn Security Officer Travis Merrill discussed his difficulty writing tickets because public knows we can't do anything to enforce a ticket. He said the main problem is that Ports have staff, but no authority. He's not asking the Sheriff to commit to having an officer, that all we are looking for is Port staff to have the ability to enforce the rules. Sheriff Salisbury then answered what if someone still ignores the Port staff, then who do we call - the Sheriff's office. He got somewhat impatient, saying that's what he's trying to explain - that they do not have the staff to send a deputy. Commissioner Bailey then replied we're not looking for an officer.

Port of Allyn Commissioner Ted Jackson - who is a law enforcement officer himself - explained to the Sheriff that codifying the Marina Rules would give the Port staff authority to write the tickets as a civil infraction equivalent to a parking ticket. He explained that Port staff would write the ticket, the person receiving the ticket has to pay the fine - which would go to the County - or protest it in court. However, the amount of the fine would be so small, that most people would just pay it, as it would more than likely cost them more to contest it than pay it.

Deputy Spurling stated it kills them that they can't do more. However, it appeared that the Sheriff and Deputy Spurling finally understood that the Ports are not asking for officer help, just the codification so Port staff can handle the problem.

At this point, the Sheriff brought up the lawsuits they deal with, and how often their office gets sued. He stated that codification, and if Port staff can handle the work, then that might be a good idea, but that the Ports need to go through the County Commissioners. Derelict vessel problems were also mentioned, and the cost to DNR to deal with them. The Sheriff suggested that Ports need to develop a strategic plan, and take it to County Commissioners.

Commissioner Jackson asked for support, saying if we can codify the rules and write tickets, perhaps earmarking a portion of the paid infraction for the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff said yes, as long as they don't have to get the calls to send a deputy out. Commissioner Jackson pointed out it wouldn't be a lot of money but it is a win-win - and means less work for Sheriff, coupled with a bit of revenue. He discussed how it works in Tacoma - no deputies handle any calls that are Port related because the Port deals with their own issues. Ports already have the ability to have their own Port police force He explained the cost structure, saying if all five Ports pitched in would it be doable.

The Sheriff liked the idea of Port security officer, noting that the Walmart greeter actually cuts thefts by 90 percent. If the Ports have a security guy that comes around and shines lights every night, that would help. When people see that there is someone watching, crime cuts down. He also suggested cameras, saying more modern ways might be more efficient.

Port of Bremerton: James Weaver spoke next, saying safety big concern at Port of Bremerton - especially the homeless issue. They don't have a security officer but are looking into it. He noted a smaller cruise ship has chosen Bremerton as a stop five times next year. He also mentioned the Port Orchard Marina breakwater replacement, that the Port is a partner in Marina Square on the Bremerton waterfront, and it may partner in a potential community center in Port Orchard. He added a new property purchase across from Yachtfish Marine would help with their proposed expansion, and that the Port's marina manager won the best marina manager in the Puget Sound last year.

Mason Lake: Jim Madden, citizen pointed out the incredible growth on Mason Lake over the last five years. He said they are dealing with boating accidents and property issues like trespass, and trash. They formed a committee to help figure out what to do. They are not asking for any officers, or new ordinances, but they want to figure out how to enforce their rules by themselves. The entire lake is in the Port of Grapeview but no Mason Lake commissioners have ever discussed any Mason Lake issues with their Port. Mr. Madden likes the idea of having a way to enforce a ticket, believing money will force people to behave better. Out of town people seem to be the biggest issue.

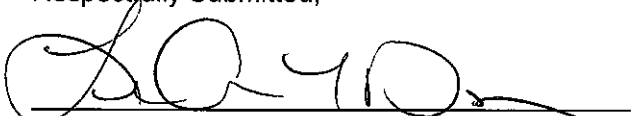
Commissioner Cooper stopped the conversation to get the meeting back to Port business. He asked the Port of Dewatto what their position is on the DNR adverse possession by trespass issue. Commissioner Edwards discussed their position, and asked if other Ports could discuss their experiences with adverse possession

Commissioner Bailey spoke again, saying the Port of Brownsville looked at putting in an RV park and found their property was too small. They acquired the five acres next to them and then another acre. They also just finished rebuilding their boat ramp.

Port of Allyn Commissioner Judy Scott proposed having another All-Ports meeting. She thanked Port of Allyn staff for organizing this one. Everyone agreed to meet quarterly. The Port of Shelton offered to host the next meeting.

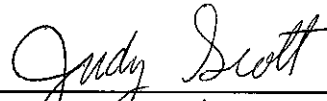
Meeting Adjourned at _8:15_ p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



LeAnn Dennis, Operations Manager

COMMISSIONERS:



Judy Scott, Chair



Scott Cooper, Vice Chair

Ted Jackson, Commissioner