

VENTURA PORT DISTRICT

BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2017



VENTURA
PORT DISTRICT
Established 1952

The Regular Meeting of the Ventura Board of Port Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Everard Ashworth at 7:04PM at the Ventura Port District Office located 1603 Anchors Way Drive, Ventura, CA 93001.

Commissioners Present:

Everard Ashworth, Chairman
Brian Brennan, Vice Chairman
Jim Friedman, Secretary
Bruce E. Smith
Nikos Valance

Commissioners Absent:

None

Port District Staff:

Oscar Peña, General Manager
Brian Pendleton, Business Operations Manager
John Higgins, Harbormaster
Gloria Adkins, Accounting Manager
Frank Locklear, Marina Manager
Robin Baer, Property Manager
Jennifer Talt-Lundin, Marketing Manager
Joe Gonzalez, Facilities Manager
Jessica Rauch, Clerk of the Board

Legal Counsel:

Timothy Gosney
Dominic Nunneri

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: By Chairman Everard Ashworth at 7:04PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: By Commissioner Smith.

ROLL CALL: All Commissioners were present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

ACTON: Commissioner Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Brennan and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adopt the May 10, 2017 agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of April 26, 2017 Regular meeting were considered as follows:

ACTION: Commissioner Smlth moved, seconded by Commissioner Brennan and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2017 regular meeting, with the following revisions:

- 1) Added Gloria Adkins to the Port District Staff in attendance
- 2) On the first page, first paragraph changed the location of the meeting from the Port District Office to the Four Points Sheraton.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT: Mr. Gosney stated that the Board met in closed session; discussed and reviewed all items on the closed session agenda. Staff was given instructions on how to proceed as appropriate and there was no action taken that is reportable under The Brown Act.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS: Commissioner Ashworth reminded the Commission and public of the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Workshop #4 happening at the Four Points Sheraton on Thursday, May 11th.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Peña updated the Commission on the Phase 3 project.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: Mr. Gosney reported that his team has been working on updating the option and lease documents in anticipation of developer negotiations for the RFP; working on updating the surplus policy; working on the new policy concerning email privacy; and commented that the April Legal report will be emailed tomorrow.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A) Approval of Out of Town Travel Requests

Recommended Action: Voice Vote.

That the Board of Port Commissioners approve the out of town travel request for Marketing Manager, Jennifer Talt-Lundin.

ACTION: Commissioner Friedman moved, seconded by Commissioner Brennan and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the out of town travel request for Marketing Manager, Jennifer Talt-Lundin.

B) Approval of 2017 Lifeguard Services Contract

Recommended Action: Voice Vote.

That the Board of Port Commissioners approve the 2017 contract proposed by State Parks to provide Lifeguard Services at Harbor Cove and Surfers Knoll.

ACTION: Commissioner Friedman moved, seconded by Commissioner Brennan and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the 2017 contract proposed by State Parks to provide Lifeguard Services at Harbor Cove and Surfers Knoll.

STANDARD AGENDA:

1) SeaSketch

Recommended Action: Voice Vote.

That the Board of Port Commissioners approve professional services with the McClintock Lab at the University of California Santa Barbara to provide SeaSketch marine spatial planning services for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise project.

ACTION: Commissioner Brennan moved, seconded by Commissioner Friedman and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve professional services with the McClintock Lab at the University of California Santa Barbara to provide SeaSketch marine spatial planning services for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise project.

2) FY2017 – 2018 Preliminary Budget and Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Recommended Action: Informational.

That the Board of Port Commissioners review and discuss the 2017–2018 Ventura Port District Preliminary Budget and Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

ACTION: The Board of Port Commissioners discussed and made the following comments on the 2017–2018 Ventura Port District Preliminary Budget and Five Year Capital Improvement Plan:

- Attachment 3, page 10 – reflect VSE grant in final budget
 - Asked staff to return to Board with VSE task information
- Two years of wage increases are not reflected, would like included in final report.
- Commissioner Smith is for a fixed amount increase or augments insurance for lower range. Also, the goals and objectives should be before the budget and would like to hear about the last four marketing objectives and the costs associated with them.
- Like the % increase/decrease in the notes section – very helpful, however some are missing and want included in final budget.
- Does the 7% contribution to PERs have to occur this year? If not, maybe do a small amount each year.
- Want to understand health insurance offerings; how do employees contribute? What are options?
- Should educate employees on their retirement.
- Maybe increase PERs 1% over the next 3 years.
- What are staff's thoughts on the changes to the service industry?
- Give employee's vision insurance as added benefit instead of wage increase. District to pay 100%.
- More info on sick pay liability.

Public Comment: Sam Sadove warned the Commission to be careful about increasing the restaurant revenue too much because come January 1, 2018, restaurants will be hit with labor law increases.

Commissioner Friedman asked management staff what is the level of understanding the employees have between what their pay is and what they're actually earning?

- Facilities Manager, Joe Gonzalez stated that his staff understood that once ground broke on the Sondermann Ring Project that staff would receive raises. Insurance costs have gone up leaving some employees with a decrease in pay. He is not sure if

employees understand the system; only what they are taking home today. Some employees are currently looking for other jobs.

- John Higgins, Harbormaster stated that he communicates to staff the value of paying into their retirements. No one appreciates the fiscal challenges more than Port District employees. We make things happen on a daily basis, putting that extra effort into every job done. He assured the Board that we are not Bell by any means. Our benefits are not the best; we don't have differentials, education incentives or bilingual pay. There are industry standards we do not participate in due to our fiscal challenges. VPD has a large number of longtime employees who have a lot of information and we have a growing number of people who have been here a short time. The longtime employees can afford to survive because they have been through the salary step process. A few years ago, a board member influenced staff to change to salary range program to award employees for their hard work. It sounded great, but when it came to salary freezes there were no increases. Salary ranges are really difficult when you face fiscal challenges and new employees are brought in at the bottom of their range and those employees are struggling. We cannot compare to the private sector; only other public agencies. When employees express that they are struggling; it is not that they want to leave here, but they have to pay bills. When you get a raise that only goes to retirement, it doesn't pay rent or daycare and those are real costs that keep increasing. Having stayed in the salary step system, we wouldn't be experiencing that same problem because employees would have a natural evolution. If we lose the employees who are struggling, before veteran employees can pass on their skills, the Port District is going to fail.
- Robin Baer, Property Manager concurs with John Higgins comments. It is hard for employees to not receive a raise when cost of living is increasing, gas, water, electricity; that is what employees are looking at. In reference to insurance, dental is not good because we cannot get into a pool with a better type of dental system because of our size and the same thing will apply for vision insurance.
- Commissioner Friedman commented that there are now ways to get into better insurance pools and that he would be glad to meet with staff to discuss these options.

Michael Wagner stated that the Business Operations Manager should go to Monterey to look at their asphalt piers. Also asked what we're getting for marketing money. Harbor Village is the #1 visitor's destination in Ventura. The Harbor is the step child of the City and we need to get the Visitor's Bureau to advertise for us more.

AGENDA PLANNING GUIDE AND REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: 1) Updated Surplus Policy; 2) Lifeguard Program funding.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:12PM.


Secretary