

## **Report for LWV of Port of Bellingham (POB) Commissioners Public Meeting**

September 6, 2011

Meeting attended by Mary Ellen Woods and Martha Mills

**Public Meeting** convened at 3:00 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Gormley, the chief pilot for San Juan Airlines, commented that he had lost his Airport ID badge and the replacement cost \$50. At the time, he was told that if he found his old badge, he could return it for a refund. Despite extensive searching, he did not locate the badge until his mechanic found it nine months later in his car. When he tried to return it, he was told that he only had 90 days to return the badge for a reimbursement. He believes that the fee and the 90 days are unreasonable. The airport explained that Mr. Gormley's signed badge agreement contains the 90 day limit, SeaTac's fee is \$150, the FAA requires that the airport report lost badges every 90 days and if more than 5% of the cumulative badges have been lost, then everyone must be issued a new badge at a cost of \$7500 (the airport is now at 3.5%). The commissioners thanked Mr. Gormley for his testimony and took no action.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approved minutes of August 16, 2011 meeting and voucher certifications for August 2011 without discussion.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

1. Authorize the Executive Director (E.D.) to sign an Economic Development Investment (EDI) Program inter-local loan and grant agreement with Whatcom County for public facility improvements at 300 Harris Ave. involving Index Industries, Inc. No discussion except that the county may be expected to sign because the agreement was recommended by the county's advisory committee. Approved.

#### **AVIATION**

2. Authorize the E.D. to accept FAA AIP grant. As a result of the FAA work stoppage due to the federal budget, about \$372,000 due to the airport for on-going projects was not paid. The FAA preferred to issue a new grant for the funds, which will allow the airport to complete four current projects. There was

comment about new contract language about “severe human trafficking” in the grant; no one knew to what it referred. Approved.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

3. – 7. The commissioners approved authorizing the E.D. to sign five amendments to various agreements. Three involve the Cornwall Avenue Landfill environmental work and are to dedicate funds approved by the legislature so the funds are reserved for the Port’s use for this project. There was brief discussion of the City’s plans for a public park on part of the property, ownership issues, the costs and who is paying. Mike Stoner, director of environmental services, explained the details of the contamination and the several stages through which an environmental cleanup project progresses. The projects are all scheduled for completion in 2014. The projects are a priority so the property can be put up for development. There was banter by a commissioner that some Bellingham bartenders are betting against the completion date.

The other two agreements involve cleanup projects at the Harris Avenue Shipyard and the Northwest Fuel Site, also estimated completion in 2014.

All agreements were approved.

## **FACILITIES**

8. Authorize the E.D. to increase the contingency of the 2011 paving, sealing, and striping contract with Western Refinery Services. Approved.

9. Authorize the E.D. to execute a change order with RAM Construction for the Airport Southwest Detention Pond improvements. The pond is six acres in size. Three feet rather than one foot of sediments were found on the bottom of the pond, which required additional excavation and fill. The FAA requires that the pond drain in 48 hours to prevent attracting waterfowl. Request is for a higher contingency amount but the price per unit has been reduced. The FAA found discretionary money to assist with this project, thank you to the FAA. Approved.

10. Authorize E.D. to execute contracts for necessary repairs at Fairhaven Marine Industrial Park resulting from a power outage on August 23. Approved.

## **WORK STUDY SESSION**

### **1. Update on Website and Social Media**

The Port's website has been updated to increase functionality. There are now links to pay bills, receive notices, online forums, virtual tours of facilities, and many other new features. The site receives 350 – 500 hits daily, the majority about parking at the airport.

The Port also has a Facebook page, which is updated two or three times each week with current activities and other information.

The woman demonstrating the use of the sites did an excellent job.

### **2. Update on Blaine Industrial Area**

The Blaine Harbor and Marina has many repairs and improvements that are badly needed. The staff did a visual tour of the problem areas. The staff will present proposals at the Sept. 20, 2011 commissioner's meeting but does not yet know what will be the best solutions and the costs involved. The goal is to have a more efficient site plan to accommodate more of the required uses, such as the marina, in the limited space available. There is no feasible room for expansion except at very high cost.

There are three MTCA sites requiring environmental cleanup, which will take five to ten years to complete. The port is over 100 years old, so many of the facilities are way past their useful life. The bulkhead is constructed of pilings and wood that have failed in several places, resulting in paving and road collapse, plus there are exposed fuel lines and other problems.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNED**

Adjourned at 5:30.