

PORT OF NEWPORT MINUTES

August 27, 2019

Commission Special Meeting

This is not an exact transcript. The audio of the session is available on the Port's website.

Agenda Item

**Audio
Time**

I. CALL TO ORDER

0:00

Commission President Sara Skamser called the Commission Work Session of the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners to order at 12:00 pm at the South Beach Activities Room, 2120 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, Oregon.

Commissioners Present: Walter Chuck (Pos. #1), Secretary/Treasurer; Sara Skamser (Pos. #2), President; Gil Sylvia (Pos. #3); Jeff Lackey (Pos. #4); and Jim Burke, Vice President (Pos. #5).

Management and Staff: Paula J. Miranda, General Manager; and Karen Hewitt, Administrative Supervisor.

Members of the Public and Media: Pat Ruddiman, ILWU; Leo Newburg, Commission Candidate; Mark Farley, Commission Candidate; and Gilbert Sylvia, Commission Candidate.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

0:20

There was no public comment at this time.

**III. FILLING OF COMMISSION VACANCY POSITION No. 3
(PON Resolution 2014-08)**

0:54

Skamser read the notes included in the Meeting Packet that outline the selection process for filling a Commission vacancy. The candidates were invited to leave the room while the other candidates were interviewed. Chuck advised that he had informed Sylvia, Farley, and Rob Halverson about the Commission vacancy.

A. Review Letters of Interest

Skamser confirmed that all Commissioners had reviewed the letters of interest and questionnaires submitted by the candidates.

B. Interview Candidates

6:10

The candidates were interviewed in order. Skamser asked each candidate if they had anything to add to their submission, followed by questions from the Commissioners.

1. Newberg said he applied because he thought it was important to have a qualified and interested person in the position. He added he was pleased to see the other two excellent candidates applied, so he was less concerned. He said he would bring life-long infrastructure experience and an understanding of marine economy. Chuck asked why he didn't apply at the last election. Newberg said he did not feel he had time to offer at that point because of family obligations, but now he would. Lackey asked what of his strengths and skills would most benefit

6:12

the Port. Newberg said his understanding of infrastructure, balancing the needs of the waterfront and others, and his appreciation of the Port's history and room to grow. Burke asked what Newburg understood about Port governance and decision making process. He said the executive board is accountable for its decisions. Coming from private industry, he was unfamiliar with politics. Skamser asked if his schedule would allow for him to serve on the Board and act as liaison to other organizations; Newburg replied absolutely, because his current family situation allows him to make that decision.

2. Sylvia said the major points of the mission in his job at the university were not dissimilar to the Port's mission, specifically improve and maximize the use of resources, and conserve and protect marine resources. Sylvia said he enjoyed service and working with the community, state and others in his profession. He said he had a PhD in Economics and a Masters in Fishery Biology, and was focused on practical and creative solutions to problems. Sylvia gave an example of working with the local community on the possibility of providing opportunities to market seafood. He spoke of the need for the Port to communicate with fishermen about the use of Port facilities. Burke asked what Sylvia understood about Port governance and decision making process. Sylvia said he had served on other boards, and understood that the Commission sets the strategic direction, represents constituents, approves the budget, votes on critical items, and makes sure that the goals and objectives are being met. Lackey asked what of his strengths and skills would most benefit the Port. Sylvia said his mindset of creative thinking and analyzing cost trade-offs, looking at the short and long-term, and looking at how to best meet Port goals. Chuck asked about his comment in response to the questionnaire that the Port may need a different fiscal and budget model to avoid infrastructure problems in the future. Sylvia said he reviewed the Port's budget as a member of the Budget Committee, and the Port should look at balancing fees, grants and other revenue sources. He said in his prior job they may have had five grant applications at any time since grants were not guaranteed. The Port cannot delay addressing infrastructure. Skamser said her question had already been answered.

3. Farley commented that he had just stepped off another board. I Chuck asked why he didn't apply at the last election. Farley said he had not run in the election three months ago because he was not aware of the opening and was committed to another board. Since he recently left that board, he was now able to look for other ways to serve the community. Burke asked what Farley understood about Port governance and decision making process. Farley said he understood that the Commission gave guidance to the General Manager, but he was not familiar with the State level requirements. Skamser asked how he would deal with responsibility of public office and the public trust. Farley said he lived that every day. He said that serving on a public board was not a new role for him, including spending public funds wisely and representing public interests wisely, but serving on the Port Commission would have additional pieces. Lackey asked what of his strengths and skills would most benefit the Port. Farley said he was good at building relationships and looking for commonalities. He looked for opportunities for everybody to win. Chuck said the Port district has a diversity of interests in the Port, and asked Farley what gap he would fill. Farley said he would speak primarily for the scientific community and knew what was important in collaborative efforts with the commercial fleet. Lackey asked Farley to give an example of participation in a decision making issue. Farley explained his lead role in building housing for OSU students in Wilder, which involved public funding. He spoke about the complications along the way. He said this development would eventually get built. Skamser asked if his schedule would allow for him to serve on the Board and act as liaison to other organizations. Farley said his life was busy and he was involved with the community. He had just stepped off a board that had monthly meetings and work sessions and would be able to meet the requirements. Burke asked what lines of business of the Port Farley best understood and what would be new. Farley said he

17:27

30:32

was familiar with mooring, gas fueling, traffic, storage and lay down space. He commented that the other candidates for the position were phenomenal.

IV. DELIBERATION AND VOTE.....

39:43

Skamsers thanked the candidates for their time and for applying for the position. Lackey also said thank you to all three and acknowledged they applied out of a desire to help the community. Burke thanked staff for getting the word out about the vacancy. Chuck said they were three good candidates.

The Commissioners, with the exception of the President, submitted private ballots. Chuck voted for Sylvia, Lackey voted for Farley, and Burke voted for Sylvia.

A motion was made by Burke and seconded by Chuck that Gil Sylvia be appointed to fill the vacant position #3 on the Port of Newport Board of Commissioners, until June 30, 2021, in accordance with Port of Newport Resolution 2014-08 and ORS 198.320. The motion passed 5 – 0.

43:11

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

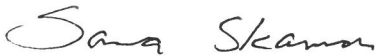
There was no public comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

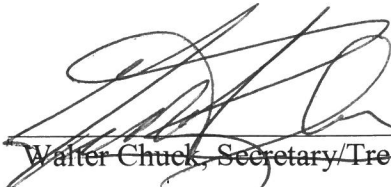
44:02

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:44 pm.

ATTESTED:



Sara Skamsers, President



Walter Chuck, Secretary/Treasurer

GIL SYLVIA, COMMISSIONER