Media Release
Port of Chelan County Board of Commissioners
Meeting of November 17, 2011

Meeting Highlights

Port Commission Approves 2012 Budget

At the conclusion of the 2012 budget hearing, the Board of Commissioners of the Port of Chelan County unanimously approved the Port's 2012 budget. The budget calls for expenditures totaling $4,210,324.00, a decrease of $1,681,260.00 compared to the 2011 supplemental budget (which included approximately $1.1 million for Sunset Highway Improvement Project in Cashmere). The 2012 budget calls for reduced expenditures in salaries (due to retirements) and out of town travel. The 2012 budget does not include potential proceeds from the pending sale of the Cashmere Mill Site.

The Commission also unanimously approved an increase of one percent and new construction in the 2011 tax levy, which totals $44,098.00. The impact of this increase to the owner of a property valued at $250,000 will be slightly less than thirty cents per month. The Commission's decision to take this increase was somewhat based on the increase in capital projects and operating expenses at Pangborn Memorial Airport. The Port of Chelan County's share of the cost rose over $200,000 from the 2011 supplemental budget. These increases are the result of decreased non-tax revenues due to the recessionary economy, increased training and security requirements, and continued progress toward the extension of the runway.

Commission Approves Interlocal Agreement with City of Entiat for Waterfront Development

The City of Entiat will move forward with their Waterfront Development project, with matching funds from Port of Chelan County. In the summer of 2011, the City of Entiat was awarded $1.1 million in grant funding, requiring $200,000 in matching funds. The Port will provide $132,500 over the next few years for match, while the City is responsible for the reminder. Commissioner Mike Mackey stated, "The Port would like to acknowledge the staff and consultants at the City of Entiat for the time and effort put into obtaining funding through many sources. This is a great leverage of Port dollars toward a great project."

Commission Approves Interagency Agreement for Small Business Development Center

The Commission unanimously approved continuing its partnership with Washington State University's Small Business Administration which supports entrepreneurs and small business owners with business counseling, resource information and general financial information. This service has been provided by Jim Fletcher in North Central Washington with support from SBA, as well as state funds distributed for Economic Development to the Port of Chelan County. Commissioner JC Baldwin stated, "The service Jim has been providing is extremely valuable to the local businesses and entrepreneurs. The Port Commission would like to thank Jim for assisting in keeping our local economy strong."

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