

**PORT OF BENTON  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 29, 2021**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** The Special Commission meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Port of Benton Commission Meeting Room, 3250 Port of Benton Boulevard, Richland, Washington.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Jane F. Hagarty; Commissioner Roy D. Keck, Executive Director, Diahann Howard, PPM®; Port Attorney, David Billetdeaux

**The following attendees attended via remote communications:** Executive Administrator, Summers Miya; Director of Real Estate, Teresa Hancock; Director of Marketing, Wally Williams; Contract Specialist, Sheri Collins; Director of Facilities & Operations, Ron Branine; Director of Economic Development & Governmental Affairs, Miles Thomas; Senior Accountant, Veronica Serna; Facilities Manager, Joe Pisca; Christine Roemeling, Community Member; Kathy Olson, Community Member; Joel Rogo, Community Member; Wendy Culverwell, Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business; Nicole Keller; Gareth Nisbett, Community Member; Todd Burgers; Cara Hernandez, Community Member; Robert Larson, Community Member; Leona Hassing

**The following attendees were interviewed in-person:** Justin Raffa, Christy Rasmussen, Scott Keller, Obie Amacker

The Special Commission Meeting was conducted using the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended social distancing protocols for COVID-19 with Commissioners meeting socially distanced in-person; public attending remotely and Port staff members participating socially distanced in-person or remotely, and said meeting was noticed as required by RCW 42.30.070.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Port Attorney David Billetdeaux led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. A motion was made by Commissioner Roy Keck, seconded by Commissioner Jane Hagarty and unanimously passed by the Commission approving the special meeting agenda for 11/29/2021.**

**D. INTERVIEWS OF COMMISSION CANDIDATES:**

Port Attorney David Billetdeaux noted that the names of the four applicants were entered into random.org to determine the order of the interviews. Billetdeaux stated that for the purpose of fairness and to protect the privacy of each candidate's answers from the other interviewing candidates, the other three applicants were asked to wait in the lobby and would not be able to listen to each interview.

The order of the applicant interviews was:

1. Justin Raffa
2. Christy Rasmussen
3. Scott Keller
4. Obie Amacker

The following questions were asked to all applicants, and each provided their individual responses:

1. What do you think the Port's most important role is?
  - a) What would you do to help fulfill that role?
2. Where do you see the Port in 5-years?
3. Can you tell us about an incident where you were on the unpopular side of an issue?
  - a) What was the outcome?
4. Do you have any specific goals, issues or projects or other contribution you would like to propose as a Port Commissioner? Please explain.
5. If selected to fill this position through the end of the term, will you plan on running for election for the next 6-year term (January 1, ~~2023~~ <sup>2024</sup> – December 31, ~~2028~~ <sup>2029</sup>)?

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**E. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Special Commission Meeting was recessed at 10:20 a.m. and an Executive Session was convened at 10:30 a.m. to evaluate the interviewees. It was announced that the Executive Session would take 30 minutes and the Special Commission Meeting would reconvene at 11:00 a.m.

The Special Commission Meeting was reconvened at 11:00 a.m. and Jane Hagarty thanked each applicant, explaining the decision process in determining which applicant would be the best fit for the Commissioner role. Commissioner Hagarty stated that the individual selected was forward-thinking, had deep community roots and was solid and engaged in the community in addition to understanding the concept of leveraging Port assets and would also support what was in place.

Commissioner Hagarty announced that Christy Rasmussen was appointed to fulfill the remaining two years of former Commissioner Robert Larson's six-year term for District 2.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Roy Keck, seconded by Commissioner Jane Hagarty, and unanimously passed by the Commission, appointing Christy Rasmussen as the District 2 Commissioner for the Port of Benton.**

#### F. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:05 a.m.

  
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Roy D. Keck  
Commission Secretary