

**PORT OF BENTON
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2025**

A. CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Port of Benton Commission room, 3250 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, Washington.

PRESENT: Commissioner Scott D. Keller,

REMOTE COMMUNICATIONS: Commissioner Lori Stevens, Commissioner Roy D. Keck

PORT STAFF PRESENT: Diahann Howard, Jeff Lubeck, Quentin Wright, Summers Miya, Ron Branine, Brandin Lopez, Wally Williams, Cassie Hammond

ALSO PRESENT: John O’Leary, Gravis Law; Roger Wright, RGW Enterprises

The following attendees attended via remote communications: Jorge Celestino; Sheri Collins; Angela Saraceno-Lyman; Wendy Culverwell, Tri-City Herald; Doug Streifling, Community Member

The Commission meeting was noticed as required by RCW 42.30.080.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Diahann Howard led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments from the public.

D. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Award of White Bluff Rail – SR 240 Rail Crossing Project Contract

Executive Director Diahann Howard explained that four new bids were received after re-advertising for the project. The bids ranged from \$1.3 million to \$2 million.

Howard reminded the Commission that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has contributed \$865,000 to the project. The Port planned a match of \$435,000, but is still facing budget shortfall of approximately \$370,000 based on the current lowest bid.


Howard explained that the budget shortfall will be covered from the existing 2025 budget, including a grant project match amount that was not awarded to the Port.

Howard noted that one of the other bidders has made a claim that Stacy & Witbeck, the lowest, responsive bidder, did not meet the required DBE percentage, but WSDOT has reviewed and approved the Stacy & Witbeck bid and DBE submittal.

No exact schedule for the project has been established yet but the team is aiming for an April start. A project schedule will be established and communicated after the contract has been awarded. Coordination is ongoing with a state project set for road repaving and widening at SR 240.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lori Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Roy Keck, and unanimously passed by the Commission, approving the \$1,341,975.00 award of the White Bluff Rail – SR 240 Rail Crossing Project to Stacy and Witbeck, the lowest responsive bidder.

K. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8.36 a.m. with an announcement that the next regular Port of Benton Commission meeting would be held at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at the Port of Benton Commission meeting room located at 3250 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, Washington.


_____, Commission
Secretary