

PORT OF BENTON
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2026

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, Commissioner Bill O'Neil, Commissioner Lori Stevens (via remote communications)

PORT STAFF PRESENT: Ron Branine, Quentin Wright, Summers Miya

ALSO PRESENT: John O'Leary, Gravis Law; Clif Dyer, Richland Airport; Roy Keck, Richland; Eugene Pratt, Rachel Visick, Tri-City Area Journal of Business

The following attendees attended via remote communications: Jorge Celestino, Alicia Myers, Sheri Collins, Angela Saraceno-Lyman, Julia Mora, Cassie Losey, Wendy Culverwell, Tri-City Herald; Christy Rasmussen, Jeannie Beckett, Steve Phillips, Jim Millbauer, Dan Hanson, Apple Valley News; R. Richter, Lauren Granger, Tina Rex, PCJR

The special Commission meeting was noticed as required by RCW 42.30.070.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Bill O'Neil led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Convene Executive Session

- Discussion with legal counsel regarding potential litigation and legal risks – RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)
- To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment or performance of a public employee – RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

The regular meeting was recessed at 8:33 a.m. It was announced that an Executive Session would commence at 8:33 a.m. for 30 minutes for discussion with legal counsel regarding potential litigation and legal risks – RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment or performance of a public employee – RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

At 9:03 a.m., it was announced that an additional 15 minutes were required for the Executive Session, and the special meeting would reconvene at 9:18 a.m.

The special meeting was reconvened at 9:18 a.m.

Commissioner Bill O'Neil made a motion to terminate the Port auditor, effective February 2, 2026, due to unsatisfactory performance during the probationary period. Commissioner Lori Stevens seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the Commission.

Commissioner Bill O'Neil made a motion to terminate the Chief Financial Officer, per Resolution 26-04, Port personnel policy & procedures, due to unsatisfactory performance during the probationary period, effective February 2, 2026. Commissioner Scott Keller seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the Commission.

Commissioner Bill O'Neil made a motion to approve Angela Saraceno-Lyman as interim Port auditor. Commissioner Lori Stevens seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the Commission.

Commissioner Bill O'Neil made a motion to approve a salary adjustment for Angela Saraceno-Lyman, per Commission policy, as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Scott Keller seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the Commission.

Commissioner Bill O'Neil made a motion to appoint Jorge Celestino as Public Records Officer until further notice. Commissioner Lori Stevens seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the Commission.

Commissioner Bill O'Neil made a motion to appoint Angela Saraceno-Lyman as the Claims for Damages agent until further notice. Commissioner Scott Keller seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the Commission.

K. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.



Lori Stevens, Commission Secretary