

**PORT OF BENTON
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 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, Brandin Lopez, Audrey Burney
ALSO PRESENT: John O'Leary, Gravis Law; Roy Keck, Richland; Rachel Visick, Tri-City Area Journal of Business; Christy Rasmussen; Marie Noorani

The following attendees attended via remote communications: Jorge Celestino, Sheri Collins, Angela Saraceno-Lyman, Julia Mora, Bryan Condon, Century West Engineering; Samantha Peterson, Century West Engineering; Ben Hoppe, JUB Engineers

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Scott Keller led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Selection of Contract for On-Call Airport Engineering Professional Services

Airport Manager Quentin Wright stated that two firms responded to the RFQ: Century West and JUB Engineers. Wright explained that an evaluation was conducted by a selection committee using FAA-derived criteria – Firm, Team Select/Team Qualification, Airport Understanding Project, FAA Experience, References and Additional Information.

Wright displayed the scoring results – Century West, 97 points and JUB, 87 points (average points). Wright recommended moving forward with Century West as the firm selected.

Commissioner Lori Stevens acknowledged both firms as strong candidates and appreciated JUB's local presence, but also cited the positive experience working with Century West.

Commissioner Lori Stevens made a motion to approve a contract for on-call airport engineering professional services to Century West Engineering. Commissioner Bill O'Neil seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the Commission.

D. CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION

The special meeting was recessed at 8:35 a.m. It was announced that an Executive Session would commence at 8:35 a.m. for 15 minutes (amended from 30 minutes) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment – RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

The special meeting was reconvened at 8:50 a.m.

Commissioner Bill O'Neil made a motion to authorize the interim executive director to offer candidate No. 2 the director of finance position. Commissioner Scott Keller seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the Commission.

K. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m.



Lori Stevens, Commission Secretary