



PORT OF KENNEWICK

PRESS RELEASE

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At A Glance:

Who.....Port of Kennewick

What..... Port's Board of Commissioners to hear report on investigation of allegation regarding improper billing by a Commissioner and update on large public information request at their Tuesday, August 23, 2011 meeting.

Quick Facts: Port of Kennewick Commissioners will hear the results of an outside legal investigation into charges Commissioner David Hanson improperly billed the port and some of the clients of his contract lobbying firm for the same expenses at its meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2011. The meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. in the Port Commission Chambers located at 350 Clover Island Drive, 2nd floor, Kennewick, Washington. The full Commission Agenda is posted on the port's website: www.Port of Kennewick.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Port of Kennewick Commission to hear report on investigation of allegations of improper billing by commissioner/discuss large public records request

Kennewick, Wash.—Commissioners of the Port of Kennewick will hear the results of an outside investigation on charges that Commissioner David Hanson improperly billed the port and some of the clients of his contract lobbying firm for the same expenses at its meeting Tuesday.

The Port of Kennewick's Commission President Skip Novakovich said that the commission will adjourn into executive session to receive the results by phone from a representative of the Seattle law firm of K&L Gates which was retained to conduct the investigation.

Novakovich said Port Executive Director Tim Arntzen received a complaint about Commissioner Hanson expressing concern about possible billing violations. Hanson provides contract lobbying services for several public agencies including Benton PUD, Chelan PUD, and Washington Public Utility Districts Association.

"We take such allegations seriously; and because this concern involved a commissioner, we wanted it reviewed in a full and careful manner that kept our personal involvement to a minimum," Novakovich said. In keeping with that approach and state

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statute, the report will be forwarded to the State Auditor for review before taking any action. “We will ask the State to conduct the review as quickly as possible, knowing the importance of disclosing the results,” said Novakovich.

At the Commission meeting Arntzen will also brief commissioners on the progress the port is making in responding to a large request for public records that it received August 5, 2011 from the Richland law firm Telquist Ziobro McMillen. The firm is requesting expenses relating to employee reimbursements back to 2005, and any/all reimbursements related to contractors and consultants.

The Port of Kennewick’s commission meetings are held at the port’s Commission Chambers: 350 Clover Island Drive, 2nd Floor, Kennewick, Washington. Meetings begin at 2:00 p.m. and the full meeting agenda is posted on the port’s website: www.PortOfKennewick.org.

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The Port of Kennewick is developing assets to create sustainable family wage jobs, user friendly transportation systems, and quality of life enhancements for visitors and residents of the port district.