

NEWS RELEASE

Meeting Highlights

PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY

Special Meeting of the Port of Chelan County
Tuesday, November 17, 2009

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nancy Smith, Leavenworth chamber executive director; Mike Steele, Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce director; and Roger Clute, Wenatchee Valley Visitor and Convention Bureau, representing the regional Wine Alliance Marketing Organization, presented an update describing new marketing strategies for the upcoming year. The Port of Chelan County is the primary funder of this alliance, and \$60,000 is earmarked within the 2010 Port budget to continue the promotion of local wineries as an important part of Washington's wine country.

Port Budget

The commissioners adopted the 2009 Supplementary Budget and the Final Budget for 2010. Several modifications were integrated into the budget since the preliminary budget was made available for public comment earlier in November. Of primary significance was the board's decision to forego the 1% tax levy increase normally allowed by law. The approved budget also does not contain or provide for cost of living adjustments for port staff.

The Cashmere site preparation and infrastructure budget has been increased from \$1.4 million in the proposed budget to \$1.6 million in the approved budget to address a possible worst case scenario with regard to asbestos issues related to the removal of the demolished kiln and shop buildings.

Commissioner JC Baldwin successfully amended the proposed budget to add \$50,000 to the \$175,000 already contributed by the Port to the Leavenworth Icicle Station project. The additional funding was requested for remaining improvements to the site, including a safety fence. The 2010 Final Budget figures also reflected the addition of \$75,000 for the port's Peshastin property (former Peshastin Mill site) master planning. The port will solicit qualifications from teams of qualified consultants to prepare concept plans that incorporate public access into one or more scenarios for future business park development. The budget also includes \$2,000,000 for the possible purchase of the Morse Steel site on Wenatchee's downtown riverfront for the Pybus Public Market project. The port commission will not make a decision to proceed with this acquisition until a multi-faceted feasibility analysis has been completed and made available for public review and discussion in one or more open public meetings.

The 2009 Supplementary Budget and the Final 2010 Budget may be reviewed on the port's website at portofchelancounty.com. A copy may also be obtained upon request by contacting the port office at 663-5159.

City of Chelan Inter-local Agreement

The commissioners approved modification to the inter-local agreement with the city of Chelan to provide for reallocation of \$10,000 already approved for Chelan projects. Specifically, this funding would apply to a feasibility study on the current Chelan County PUD property where the Lake Chelan Chamber office is currently located. The city of Chelan is interested in acquiring this property for municipal purposes.

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