

# NEWS RELEASE

---

## PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY

Meeting of the Port of Chelan County  
Monday, November 17, 2008

### **Meeting Highlights**

#### **Adoption of 2008 Supplemental and 2009 Final Budgets**

Following public hearings as required by statute, the commission approved the 2008 supplemental budget (which consists of several budget amendments to reflect various policy decisions made during the course of the year) and adopted the 2009 budget. The 2009 budget proposed expenditures totaling \$5,338,720, slightly less than the total 2008 supplemental budget of \$5,549,953.

The budget increases the port's property tax levy by one percent (\$21,851), as allowed by state law, along with the added valuation due to new construction (\$66,495), for a total increase of \$88,076. The port's levy rate for 2009 will decrease from .3119/thousand to .2560/thousand. Rental income from the port's tenants is also projected to increase by \$20,900. The commissioners also noted that leasehold excise taxes and other payments in lieu of taxes made by port tenants will total \$245,110 during 2009. Only that port property that is either unoccupied or leased to another governmental agency or qualifying nonprofit agency is off of the tax rolls.

The budget provides funding to a wide variety of community economic development efforts and projects, and dedicates \$155,085 as the Port of Chelan County's share of the operating deficits for Pangborn Memorial Airport. The commission has identified the need to realize significant revenue increases to defray airport expenses as one of the port's top priorities for 2009.

The final, approved 2009 port budget will be posted at the port's website [www.portofchelancounty.com](http://www.portofchelancounty.com)

#### **Confluence Technology Center Update**

Laura Jaecks reported that the recent heavy rain activity resulted in some relatively minor window and roof leaks that are present being addressed.

#### **New Regular Commission Meeting Date/Time**

Commissioners are considering a new meeting date and time; however, because the board president was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, this item was tabled until the next commission meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Pangborn Update**

Pangborn Manager Pat Moore reported that the Emergency Drill, involving multiple county and city agencies, was executed this past week, with great success. The drill involved a mock airliner crash and the response to injuries, property damage, emergency vehicle arrival, general traffic control, and information dissemination. A number of volunteers played the parts of injured passengers and arriving relatives, as well as persons who served as first response until emergency crews arrived.

Mike Armstrong, the port's external affairs director, reported that he met with staff members from Senator Patty Murray's office, Senator Maria Cantwell's office, and Representative Doc Hastings' office to discuss federal funding for the Economic Stimulus Project.

As described at the last commission meeting, the airport's \$1.4 million terminal renovation and expansion project has been designated as the priority project for the proposed special state and/or federal economic stimulus funding anticipated to be made available in the near future. The project is for expansion and remodel of the existing seating at the airport and the security checkpoint. The FAA/Seattle, internally, has suggested this project for the economic stimulus program. WSDOT is looking for projects to support the program, and the Pangborn remodel has been the "number one" project in a prior project recommendation process. CTED is compiling a list, and this project will be recommended for the list. The WVTC will add this project to its list for recommendation to WSDOT.

Mike Armstrong reported that discussions are scheduled to continue with the final proposal of the project ready for Governor Gregoire's review on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**For More Information Contact:  
Mike Armstrong, External Affairs Director  
509-663-5159  
509-670-2504**