



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Port of Astoria commissioners begin a contentious meeting to hire a new legal counsel on Tuesday.

## Port: 'It's about the Port's policies and bylaws'

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In November, Knight said Astoria native Thane Tienson, one of three finalists for legal counsel along with Eakins and Jordan Ramis, disclosed that he had counseled Hunsinger, who should disclose the potential conflict of interest.

Hunsinger, a critic of Knight, said Tuesday that a simple look at conflict of interest laws would have revealed that his statements had no basis. He then read from his letter, while referencing another from Nov. 15.

"It is clear that Mr. Knight continues not to devote the time and attention necessary to perform his duties in a professional and competent manner on this issue," Hunsinger said. "The commission has a right to terminate Mr. Knight for cause for failure to perform specific directives of the commission and for performing any willful, intentional act which reflects (unfavorably) on the reputation of the Port of Astoria."

Hunsinger said there were other times he had been falsely accused by Knight and fellow Commissioner Raichl of having a conflict of interest with William Orr, owner of the company operating the Astoria Riverwalk Inn and head of a seafood processor working in Alaska, where Hunsinger commercially fishes for salmon.

Commissioner Campbell said Hunsinger had already admitted to Tienson being his personal attorney, and that nothing Knight said was derogatory. Chairman Mushen said all he and Knight wanted Hunsinger to do was disclose to Eakins and Jordan Ramis a potential bias because of his relationship with Tienson.

"I was in those meetings, and you didn't disclose it," Mushen said of interviews the Port held with Eakins and Jordan Ramis.



Port of Astoria Executive Director Jim Knight came under fire during a Port of Astoria Commission meeting on Tuesday.



Commissioner Bill Hunsinger speaks during a Port of Astoria Commission meeting on Tuesday in Astoria.

**'This is just the tip of the iceberg regarding this commission not allowing the dissenting voices an opportunity to bring things to the agenda, to comment on things and to vote on them.'**

**Stephen Fulton**  
Port of Astoria commissioner

"I think it's a little bit harsh," Commissioner Fulton said of Hunsinger's letter, "but the fact

of the matter is it's not a conflict of interest." Following a similar vot-

ing pattern on most controversial issues, Mushen, Campbell and Raichl voted against Hunsinger's letter being added to Knight's personnel file.

### Mushen's reprimand

Before the discussion about Knight, Mushen said he felt the need to clear his name. He was accused by Fulton at a recent meeting of malfeasance for sending a letter to the Special Districts Association of Oregon nominating Knight for a Manager of the Year award without commission sign-off.

Mushen asked the commission to ratify his decision and affirm that he was not malfeasant.

Hunsinger said Mushen's letter included many false statements about Knight's accomplishments and didn't represent the Port Commission. Fulton reiterated that his concerns were about Mushen taking action on his own in violation of Port bylaws. Campbell again accused Fulton and Hunsinger of acting like children and going on a witch hunt against Knight.

"It's not about Jim," Fulton said of his concerns. "It's about the Port's policies and bylaws."

Fulton said he has a letter detailing his concerns. "This is just the tip of the iceberg regarding this commission not allowing the dissenting voices an opportunity to bring things to the agenda, to comment on things and to vote on them."

Fulton asked that Mushen's request be tabled until the commission could read his letter. In a rare 3-2 victory for Fulton and Hunsinger, Raichl joined the two in tabling Mushen's motion, saying he supported Mushen's actions but would allow the Port Commission to look at the letter.

Fulton's letter was not immediately available for public review, but The Daily Astorian has filed a public records request for the document.

## Gearhart: Decision must be made by March 28

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Commissioners denied the request 5-2. They said the lottery machines could open the door to gambling machines downtown, and pointed to video gaming establishments on nearby U.S. Highway 101. Others were skeptical that video poker could "prop up" Lowenberg's failing business.

Two commissioners, Virginia Dideum and Jeremy Davis, praised the brew pub's design plan and opposed the denial.

### Gambling and drinking

Lowenberg's appeal takes City Planner Carole Connell to task for failing to provide evidence for her staff report recommendation to deny the machines, based on what she said were studies linking gambling and drinking. "The city finds gambling stations that encourage alcohol consumption do not coincide with the intent of a neighborhood cafe as defined."

"This is clearly a highly-biased opinion from someone who is adamantly against the proposed use rather than inde-

pendent review of an application," Lowenberg wrote. "It seems the planner is trying to find arguments against the lottery machines by linking gambling and drinking," he said.

Lowenberg disputes the planner's contention that lot-

tery machines are not a use "devoted to the use of food while customers are seated at tables."

Lottery dollars support many resources in Oregon and locally, he said, "and if customers want to participate in lottery while waiting on a

meal, this is good for Gearhart and good for Oregon."

City Administrator Chad Sweet said the City Council will set a date to hear the appeal at a public meeting. A decision must be rendered by March 28, within 120 days of the original application.

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## Statue: 'It took two school years to build'

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Searle said he and other Warrenton alumni approached Don Patterson and Robert Fulton, who own the commercial complex on the street corner. Patterson, an Astoria High School graduate who has lived in Warrenton for nearly 30 years and won the city's Richard Ford Award for citizen of the year in 2006, said there was a lot of support for placing the statue in a prominent location.

"It's just nice to do something for the community," he said. "Warriors have a lot of pride."

A regular target of senior pranks, the statue has been dressed up and swiped throughout the years. Most recently, the Class of 2016 deposited the statue in front of Warrenton's post office, a few hundred feet from the new location, before being taken back and put into storage by the school district.

The statue had recently become the most visual impact locally of a statewide ban on Native American mascots. Warrenton-Hammond Superintendent Mark Jeffery said the school

board left it to him to dispose of the statue, as the district divested itself of most Native American imagery.

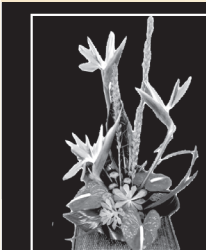
"I just couldn't come up with a group to more respectfully deal with it," Jeffery said of Searle's group, adding it was fitting that someone who helped make the statue found a home for it.

Searle said his metal shop teacher in the late 1960s, Earnest Moon, had a bunch of scrap metal lying around and came up with the idea of cutting out small warriors and welding them into the statue.

"I'd say it took two school years to build," Searle said, showing off a picture of he and Moon standing with a group of students around the statue as it was lowered onto a porch above the front entrance to the high school.

For its new spot, local contractor Flint Carlson excavated a hole and helped place the statue. Mark Baldwin built the concrete slab it is bolted into. Sherwin Williams donated a new coat of purple paint. Searle said the statue will be lit from underneath, with a plaque explaining its history.

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**Q: I am worried about my breath. What can I do?**

**A:** Fresh breath is an expression of good oral hygiene and self-confidence. Many things can affect the undesirable breath issue. First and foremost, it gets back to dental oral hygiene. Dental plaque, which is a film of debris, bacteria and bacterial toxins is the main culprit. Hardened plaque, known as calculus or tartar leads to receding gums, inflamed gums and deepening pockets, giving bacteria lots of hiding places. Other factors are tobacco smoking and certain foods and drinks. An important, but often overlooked area is maintaining a clean tongue. This can be best accomplished with the use of a plastic tongue scraper to remove daily debris. Finally, as a daily, oral rinse, ideally one that is alcohol-free, is a good adjunct to fresh breath control.



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