

Fulton: Claims staff's analysis left out reasonable alternatives

Continued from Page 1A

adjacent land shovel-ready for future development.

Fulton, originally part of a unanimous Port Commission vote to move forward with a bond, has since come out in opposition, presenting several alternatives. He has accused fellow Port Commissioners James Campbell and John Raichl of having undisclosed conflicts of interest because they hangar planes at the airport.

Conflict of interest

Fulton sent a letter to the Airport Advisory Committee regarding a staff report Kobes submitted to the committee.

"Mr. Kobes is not a salaried employee," Fulton said. "He is a subcontractor to the Port of Astoria and the Port pays him by the hour to manage the airport and development projects. If the airport bond passes, it will create a great number of additional hours of work for Mr. Kobes and very substantial additional compensation. It must be noted that Mr. Kobes failed to disclose this major conflict of interest in the staff report."

Kobes' report was responding to Fulton's suggestion that the Port evict retired dentist Philip Bales from a private hangar on Port land.



The Daily Astorian/File Photos

The Astoria Regional Airport in Warrenton includes three runways, several banks of recreational airplane hangars, two large hangars housing Lektro and industrial land to the south housing several businesses.

Fulton has accused Bales, who has a clubhouse with a bar inside the hangar, of violating his lease and operating an illegal speakeasy. He has called on the Port to investigate the possibility of evicting or moving Bales and his hangar, which stands just southwest of the airport's main office, and siting Life Flight's new hangar there.

Kobes started the report by saying he has stored an airplane in Bales' hangar through

a handshake agreement since 2003, but that it has no bearing on the facts behind Fulton's suggestion. In the report, he explains why the southeastern site was chosen as the best location by Life Flight, the Federal Aviation Administration and Port staff.

Fulton claimed the report may have violated ethics rules precluding the agency's employees from lobbying for the bond. He requested a formal opinion by the Port's attorney.

Lackluster analysis

Despite numerous recommendations for the southeastern site, Fulton claims the staff's analysis left out reasonable alternatives, such as relocating Bales' hangar or moving the airport's main office to make way for Life Flight's hangar without a bond. He has called the bond measure speculative development, an argument echoed by his political allies and fellow Port Commission candidates, former Warrenton City Com-



Rick Holbrook, a pilot with Life Flight Network, gives a thumbs up after landing an Agusta A109E Power helicopter at the Astoria Regional Airport in May 2015. The landing was part of the helicopter's inaugural flight into Warrenton.

missioner Dick Hellberg and local business owner Pat O'Grady.

Fulton said the Port let county voters down by not exploring all the options before asking for the \$1.96 million bond. "The bond should not have been sought, and it should be rejected by the electorate."

Fulton works for Warrenton Fiber, a company controlled by the Nygaard timber family. The Nygaards own land south of the airport.

In a separate email, Fulton said he has disclosed this potential conflict of interest during Port Commission discussions in the past, and that his opposition to the Port's bond measure is based solely on the agency having other alternatives that don't require taxpayer money.

"The Nygaard property in the city of Warrenton south of the airport currently has long-term restoration requirements that make it unavailable for development," he said.

Port: Commission meets today to vote

Continued from Page 1A

exporter have been subsidizing "ghost riders," a term for longshoremen who mostly sit in the passenger seat of trucks.

Port Property Director Shane Jensen described an agreement to rent trucks and trailers from Custom Excavating by Dean Larson Inc. in Warrenton.

"Custom Excavating's going to provide log trucks each morning," Jensen said. "They're going to maintain them. They're going to refuel them. We're basically going to consult with (Astoria Forest Products) and find out when they actually need the trucks. We notify Custom Excavating. They will deliver the trucks to Pier 3."

The Port will pay Custom Excavating \$392 per day — or \$4,704 a month — for the trucks and provide liability insurance. The trucks will be stored under lock and key on Pier 3 during periods of log-ship loading.

Jensen said the rental agreement, a new strategy for the Port, will initially last six months in a trial phase. Chris Connaway, president of the local International Longshore and Warehouse Union chapter,

praised staff's partnership with longshoremen on the agreement and the use of a local company.

Port Executive Director Jim Knight originally presented the recently drawn-up agreement as an advisory item, owing to Commissioner Bill Hunsinger's repeated concerns over "hot paper," or last-minute documents Port commissioners receive without much time to review. Hunsinger later attempted to make the agreement an action item for the Port Commission to vote on finalizing, but his motion failed for lack of a majority.

Commission President

Robert Mushen, who had a medical emergency at the Port Commission meeting last month and who Knight said had the flu, was not at the meeting Tuesday. Hunsinger and Commissioner James Campbell voted to take action. Commissioner John Raichl abstained because his nephew worked for Custom Excavating. Commission Stephen Fulton voted against making the agreement an action item, saying he needed more time to review.

The Port Commission voted to keep discussion on the agreement open and meet today to vote.

In other action:

- The Port agreed to donate \$500 to the Portland Rose Festival to help fund Ships Up the River, an event honoring crews of U.S. Navy ships stopping in Astoria as part of Fleet Week in June.

- The Port Commission adopted a whistleblower policy to protect employees who report improper government actions from retaliation. The policy, being adopted by many local governing boards, came from state statutes. The Port's attorney said the agency was already four months behind in establishing such a policy.

Council: 'Symbols can speak loudly with an issue like this'

Continued from Page 1A

"I hope this sends a message out to the immigrant community that we care," Fontaine said. "It's symbolic, but symbols can speak loudly with an issue like this."

String of resolutions

The string of inclusivity resolutions came after President Donald Trump's push for a nationwide crackdown on illegal immigration. In January, the president also signed an executive order that would withhold federal grant money from sanctuary cities — a general term describing cities that seek to protect undocumented immigrants from federal immigration policies.

Inclusivity resolutions allow cities to support immigrants and refugees without running the risk of possibly losing federal money by not cooperating with federal immigration agents. The resolution also does not change any current policies or procedures of the Cannon Beach Police Department.

Did you know?

1. CMH cares for the whole family.
2. You can pay your bill online.
3. CMH provides an athletic trainer to schools at no cost.
4. Our volunteers are priceless!

2111 Exchange St., Astoria, Oregon • 503-325-4321
www.columbiamemorial.org • A Planetree-Designated Hospital

Consult a PROFESSIONAL

LEO FINZI
Astoria's Best.com
Microsoft REGISTERED Refurbisher
SHOP LOCALLY FOR YOUR BEST VALUE. WE BEAT ALL ON-LINE SALE PRICES. JUST STOP BY AND SEE!!
M-F 10-6 Sat. 11-4
77 11th Street, Suite H
Astoria, OR
503-325-2300

Q: As a provider of medical services, what special precautions do I need to take regarding email communication?

A: Email containing protected health information needs to be encrypted. Examples include sending X-rays or treatment histories via email from one doctor's office to another.

We recommend Microsoft Office Enterprise with Azure Rights Management for your patient's and your protection. We can help set it up and train your staff in its use.

ASTORIA CHIROPRACTIC
Barry Sears, D.C.
503-325-3311
2935 Marine Drive
Astoria, Oregon

Q: Do you have Lingering Sciatica?

A: Sciatica is a description of leg pain, and not a diagnosis. It can originate from lumbar, sacroiliac or buttock problems. A complete exam and diagnosis are essential. Once the source of the problem has been identified, appropriate treatments can be started. Treating the wrong area won't help the leg pain. Chiropractic care has been shown to be effective in treating all types of sciatica. Call today at 503-325-3311 to see if we can help you. We are accepting new challenges.

JEFFREY M. LEINASSAR
DMD, FAGD
Leinassar Dental Excellence
503/325-0310
1414 MARINE DRIVE, ASTORIA
www.smileastoria.com

Q: My tooth has broken off at the gum, can you extract it?

A: We provide a wide range of oral surgery service. If a broken tooth such as this occurs, it can usually be easily removed with newer designed instruments called physics forceps. This new device works somewhat similar to the claw of a hammer which makes removing a nail in a piece of wood much simpler. This technique has proven to be very effective and conservative.

Loop-Jacobsen Jewelers, Inc.

Frank & Judy VanWinkle
A family owned and operated jewelry store since 1919
(503) 325-6181
1360 Commercial
Astoria, Oregon

Q: What is the Birthstone for May?

A: Emerald. The natural green color of an Emerald is unmistakable. The stone represents success and is a perfect token of love and respect. Giving an Emerald makes it Abundantly clear how much you care. Considered to be one of the most expensive jewels available, Emeralds have been a part of popular culture for thousands of years, beginning primarily with the Egyptians. Emerald are also given for the 20th or 35th wedding anniversaries.