

Port adopts budget, bids farewell to commissioners

Last meeting for Fulton, Raichl

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian



Stephen Fulton

John Raichl

Future Port of Astoria Commissioner Dirk Rohne's hope for "boring but productive" meetings came one step closer to reality Tuesday.

The last meeting of Commissioners Stephen Fulton and John Raichl on the Port Commission ended with a relative 25-minute whisper and the passage of a \$13.6 million staff-recommended operating

budget for the coming fiscal year.

The Port Commission has become defined in recent years by Fulton and Commissioner Bill Hunsinger's withering criticism of the Port staff and Executive Director Jim Knight. Fulton, who chal-

'I just want to thank the staff for all their indulgence over the few years.'

John Raichl

lenged and was defeated by fellow Commissioner James Campbell, was relatively quiet in his last meeting Tuesday, besides unsuccessfully asking for a \$250,000 contingency in the budget. Hunsinger phoned in briefly while commercial fishing in Alaska, but soon disconnected before the Port

Commission's 4-0 vote to pass the budget.

Knight and Port Commission President Robert Mushen presented Fulton and Raichl with plaques to mark their service.

"I want to tell you both how much I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to be in this

position, and it's been a great honor and privilege for me to be serving the Port," Knight said in his closing remarks to Fulton and Raichl. "I know there have been some contentious times, but overall I know people's hearts are in the right place, and that what they really do want is the betterment of the Port for our community."

Fulton, who joined the Port Commission in 2013, replacing Pier 39 owner Floyd Holcom, had no parting remarks, except that the Port should pay close attention to the effect the Advance Astoria five-year economic development plan

could have on the Port's industrial waterfront lands.

Raichl, who was appointed in 2014 to fill out the remaining term of Port consultant Ric Gertula after he resigned, thanked the Port staff.

"I just want to thank the staff for all their indulgence over the few years," Raichl said, wishing his replacement, Frank Spence, the best of luck.

Knight said the Port will hold a free community barbecue at noon July 3 at the Port's main offices on Pier 1. Rohne and Spence will be sworn in as commissioners at a special session at 2 p.m.

	GENERAL FUND 2	DEBT SERVICE 3	SPECIAL REVENUE 4	CAPITAL PROJECTS 5	TR AG
axes to be Levied	20,845,063	4,378,157	2,571,819	112,991,334	
ance Budget (line 1)	5,641,435	24,782	2,571,819	112,991,334	
Received	15,003,628	4,353,375			
Line 4)	1,850,399	330,857			
ts 1)	16,854,027	4,684,232			

R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Business Manager Justine Hill provides a guide to the Seaside School District budget.

Seaside approves \$140 million budget for schools

Bond money swells figures

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Budgets of more than \$140 million are usually reserved for big city or suburban schools, not 1,000-student districts like Seaside's.

Combined with general fund, debt service, special revenue and capital projects, the Seaside School District will be working with a grand total of \$140.5 million.

"The budget amount is not a typo," Superintendent Sheila Roley said at Tuesday's meeting of the board of directors. "The bond proceeds are now in our budget."

"I had to check my glasses," board member Mark Truax said.

The outsized figures are the result of the passage of a \$99.7 million bond by voters last fall for a new campus. Because the school district's bonds sold at a high rate and with a matching grant from the state Department of Education, capital

projects reached more than \$112 million.

At \$20.6 million, the district's operating expense is a fraction of that.

Debt service of \$4.4 million and special revenue of \$2.6 million make up the rest of the financial summary.

The budget addresses rising student technology costs, with districtwide licenses for math and science software. A new science curriculum will be implemented in the fall to meet new science and technology standards. Staff hires and facilities upgrades are included.

This is the largest budget the school district is likely to see, as the number will soon be reduced as construction bills come in.

Business Manager Justine Hill anticipates paying out \$22.5 million next year in building costs and fees.

The budget was unanimously endorsed by directors.

"The budget committee had met twice previously, and we worked through the details then, so this was really formalizing the recommendation," Roley said after the meeting.

Oregon Ethics Commission will resume review of Kitzhaber, Hayes

By NICK BUDNICK
Capital Bureau



Former Gov. John Kitzhaber

While the criminal probe of former Gov. John Kitzhaber and his first lady, Cylvia Hayes, has ended, they now will undergo scrutiny from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

The commission issued a statement Tuesday saying that a review of the allegations against Kitzhaber and Hayes will now continue.

In February 2015, the commission put its review of three complaints filed over the couple's actions in government on hold, citing a newly launched federal probe.

Under commission rules, its investigators must first conduct a preliminary review to determine whether to launch a full investigation.

In light of the announcement Friday that the federal probe has closed, "the prelim-

inary review will now resume," according to the statement.

Even volunteers are considered subject to state ethics

laws. But in December 2014, lawyers for the couple submitted an argument to the Ethics Commission first reported by The Oregonian, saying that the commission had no jurisdiction over Hayes because she was not a public official.

As The Oregonian then noted, disclosures at that time already showed that Hayes functioned as a de facto state official and had been given a desk, office and computer at the Capitol. "She attended governor's staff meetings, spearheaded policy initiatives, had governor staff

handle travel arrangements, claimed reimbursement from the state for her expenses, and gave instructions to high-level state officials that they obeyed."

The argument that Hayes wasn't a public official was rejected by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum in a parallel records case, an opinion that was upheld in court.

Ex-Energy Department official pleads guilty to taking bribes

Associated Press

PORTLAND — The state Justice Department says a former Oregon Department of Energy official has pleaded guilty to accepting over \$291,000 in kickbacks in connection with the sale of state energy tax credits.

The Oregonian reported that Joe Colello, who managed tax credit sales for the department, pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering, receiving

bribes, aggravated theft, tax evasion and official misconduct charges.

Colello had told the newspaper he was under investigation for expediting the sale of tax credits for a private energy consultant.

Court documents say Colello accepted cashiers checks on 52 occasions from a Seattle based energy consultant, Martin Shain, who is under indictment by the state for alleged forgery to secure state tax credits.

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