

Projects from 1A

Ultimately, commissioners decided to not hold off the project for another month, and voted unanimously to have the new plans submitted, with the caveat that Aiken give an on-the-record clarification as to why he decided to make the change. The commission then turned its

attention to the port manager job description, which staff members had been working to revise to stave off any future conflicts that might occur with vague wording.

After a few clarifications, the description was passed unanimously.

This now paves the path for the commission to start looking for a new port manager.

Currently, Dina McClure is the

interim port manager after the dismissal of Steven Leskin earlier this year. McClure's official position is the port's administrative assistant.

The position is expected to be posted on Jan. 2, with the port accepting applications until Jan. 31.

The commission also discussed selling the 40-acre industrial park the port owns, which has laid

vacant for years as the port attempted to sell the parcel as one large lot.

In a work session held prior to Wednesday's public meeting, the port heard proposals from two real estate companies to take on the task of selling the property.

Andy Johnson from Coldwell Banker and Tony Wells from Berkshire Hathaway presented their realtor proposals in the meet-

ing, with both suggesting that the lot be broken up into smaller, mixed-use parcels.

"About 90 percent of everything that is sold is a residential home," Johnson said. "With commercial and industrial land, the pool of buyers really shrinks. It creates a definite obstacle and hurdle to get over in order to get the right buyer. I would encourage the port to be creative in selling the

property — as far as being flexible in financing the short term and being creative in pricing and strategy — because these types of sales don't happen that often."

Wells agreed with the assessment, saying, "The problem is, the big players look at our demographics or the workforce to suite those big projects. So, we're kind of in between time. I would like to look into that idea to make it a mixed use."

The commission decided to hold off on making a final decision until next month, allowing commissioners time to review both proposals.

Commissioners also received input from the community on the future of the port. Since a public input meeting was held in November, a bevy of suggestions have been flowing in. Those suggestions continued on Wednesday night as the public comment section brought in ideas.

One speaker had researched the concept of privatizing the Port of Siuslaw campground, going as far as contacting American Land and Leisure, a nationwide agency that runs campgrounds for various government agencies. He had worked some out the financial benefits of privatizing, along with the day-to-day operations of American Land and Leisure.

Another person gave support of creating a public pier for various activities, something that similar ports on the coast have but the Port of Siuslaw lacks.

More suggestions were given, including opening up the port showers to the public once a week, with volunteers overseeing it to prevent vandalism, and an economist who gave statistics on the fishing industry on the coast as a whole.

Whether or not any of these plans will be accepted by the port remains to be seen, but the commissioners found the timing of the input advantageous because the port's current five-year strategic business plan is set to expire in 2018.

Commissioner Bill Meyer stated that the public input should be funneled into a committee that could parse through the suggestions, look at their economic and social feasibility and how they could fit into other issues facing the port. These could then be used as a blueprint for the next five-year strategic plan, and will be finalized later in 2018.

The commissioners encouraged the public to keep bringing their ideas to the table. The port will hold another town-hall style input meeting in January, date to be determined.

Funding to repair the building that houses Mo's restaurant was also secured Wednesday.

"Mo's building was built in 1984," McClure said. "From what I can see, the only real repairs are that we replaced the roof in 2011 for \$1,800 and in 2014 we replaced all the windows, gutter and floor. Other than that, the building has not had a whole lot of attention. The exterior is in great need of repair."

While the port had originally planned to fix multiple issues with the building, including repairing the cupolas and shingles on the roof, the cost was prohibitive. Instead, the port will focus repairs that need immediate attention, including the south and west walls, with particular attention being placed on the windows, which have been leaking.

After that, McClure reported that a grant was secured to purchase new security cameras for the Florence marina and campground, which will be installed as soon as the vendor can schedule it.

Signe Grimstad, of Grimstad and Associates, gave a presentation regarding the port's recent audit. He gave the port a clean bill of financial health, stating, "This was our first year with the Port of Siuslaw. You've received a good opinion, which is what you strive for."

Grimstad also praised the ports staff as being helpful in the audit.

"They're very open and receptive," he said.

Finally, McClure was able to obtain ten spruce logs that will be used to replace the current water-logged wood debris booms that are beginning to show signs of rot.

The booms block debris from the river, such as floating timber, from entering the marina.

McClure had looked into using more modern debris booms, but found that they were cost prohibitive. The new spruce logs will work as a suitable replacement until the port can find funding for more modern booms.

Sounds of the Season

Coast Radio has partnered with local businesses and sponsors to bring you a mix of traditional holiday programs and many hours of your favorite Christmas music on both your local radio stations. Our sponsor's short holiday greetings are genuine and the absence of commercials in the carefully selected music hours is intended to make the season special. It's a small thank you from us, but a big Merry Christmas to all of you!



Sounds of the Seasons - Hours of commercial free Christmas music that includes some of your old favorites and new classics especially selected for your enjoyment

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday, December 24th

Sounds of the Season I - 4:05pm
Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County

Sounds of the Season II - 5:05pm
Florence Heating and Sheet Metal

Sounds of the Season III - 6:05pm
Florence Rotary Club

Sounds of the Season IV - 7:05pm
Peace Health

Sounds of the Season V - 8:05pm
Florence Kiwanis Club

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday, December 25th

Sounds of the Season VI - 7:05am
Senator Arnie Roblan

Sounds of the Season VII - 8:05am
Oregon Pacific Bank

Sounds of the Season VIII - 9:05am
Coast Insurance Services

Sounds of the Season IX - 10:05am
Banner Bank

Sounds of the Season X - 11:05am
Peace Health



CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday, December 24th

Relive Christmas Eve and the four ghost of Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol, with a modern retelling of this holiday favorite.

A Christmas Carole - 3:00pm

Sponsored By:

Oregon Pacific Bank - Regency Florence
Domino's - DJ Dan

SILVER & GOLD HOLIDAY CLASSICS

Hours of commercial free Christmas music that include some of your favorite holiday hits from your favorite artist of yesteryear and today.

5:05pm Leisure Excavating
6:05pm Florence Kiwanis Club
7:05pm Steve & Jayne Smoley

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday, December 25th

SILVER & GOLD HOLIDAY CLASSICS

8:05am Wok Up Windows
9:05am Banner Bank

10:05am Johnston Motor Company
11:05am Sam Spayd

Stars of Christmas Past

Join us Christmas day as we reminisce back to radio's golden age with classic holiday moments from the forties and fifties.

12:05pm - Burns and Allen
Krab Kettle

1:05pm - Great Gildersleeves
Lane Community College - Florence

2:05pm - Mel Blanc
Spruce Point Assisted Living & Memory Care

3:05pm - Bing Crosby
Lane Community College - Florence

Season's Greetings from the staff at Coast Radio

