

Port of Bandon
Regular Commission Meeting
August 27, 2026, 5:00 pm
Bandon Public Library
Bandon, OR

Commissioners Present: Reg Pullen, Donny Goddard, Don Starbuck, Wayne Butler, and Lori Osborne (via Zoom)

Staff: Jeff Griffin - Port Manager, Kathy Reed – Finance Director, Shawn Winchell – Harbormaster, Holly von Damm – Administration Assistant

Guests: John Towne (via Zoom), Josh Adamson (via Zoom)

Commissioner Pullen opened the meeting at 5:00pm

Commissioner Pullen asked for a motion to approve the consent calendar. **A motion was made by Commissioner Butler. Commissioner Starbuck seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

Harbormaster Shawn Winchell addressed the authorization for the Port to purchase a used work truck to add to the current fleet. The additional vehicle is needed due to staff demands and the current use of the Harbormaster's personal vehicle for Port business. Commissioner Butler noted that towing capacity should be an important consideration when selecting the vehicle, particularly for work involving pulling vessels from the water and other towing needs.

Commissioner Goddard made a motion to pre-authorize vehicle purchase up to \$25,000. Commissioner Butler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Port Director Griffin provided an update on the proposed transfer of ownership of the **Na-So-Mah Memorial Garden**, which is currently owned by the Port, to the **Coquille Indian Tribe**. An agreement has been reached between the Port and the Coquille Indian Tribe to transfer the property. Lease transfer documentation is currently being prepared and will be signed at a future time. A draft press release was shared for Commissioners review. The official ownership transfer ceremony is scheduled for **Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**

Griffin provided the Commissioners with an update on several PNWA navigation projects in which the Port of Bandon is involved to address current Port and marina needs.

Annual funding for critical maintenance dredging of the navigation channel to a maximum depth of 20 feet MLLW, including benched sediment areas to -14 feet MLLW and additional step-channel dredging at the entrance. Griffin noted that the last major maintenance on the Coquille jetty structure was in 1957.

Support for funding to complete maintenance and repairs to sections of the north and south jetties at the mouth of the Coquille River.

Federal funding for critical housing renovations for the U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue Detachment (SARDET). Griffin also noted that the U.S. Coast Guard has funding and has built up workforce overall at the agency. That may or may not result in active recruiting for new cadets in our area.

The Port's New Harbor Office Ribbon Cutting and Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. The Bandon Chamber of Commerce will begin the program at 5:30 p.m. Griffin noted that he will speak about the project and recognize the individuals and organizations who contributed to its completion. He will also reach out to the Commissioners to see if any would like to say a few words during the ceremony.

The target date for the Port's office move is September 22. Commissioner Osborne asked whether the large custom wood conference table currently located in the Port's office would be moved to the new location. The current plan is to leave the conference table in the existing office due to the difficulty of moving it and the functional needs of the conference room at the new location.

Commissioner Osborne also emphasized the importance of identifying any antique or historically significant items in the current office and either relocating them to the new office or offering them to the Bandon Museum for preservation.

The Commissioners also inquired about the future use of the Port's current office. Griffin noted that the Port has an outstanding lease arrangement with a current tenant at the Coast Guard Building who has expressed interest in moving into the Port's existing office space.

Griffin provided an update on the Redmond Pond Trail Route Expansion Project. The Port is awaiting one final permit from Public Works/Planning related to the proposed encroachment and improvements to the sidewalk extending from 3rd Street toward the beach access.

Griffin also discussed a potential partnership between the Port and the Bandon Dunes Charitable Foundation to assist with project funding through a grant opportunity. The project could require funding of up to \$100K, and Griffin is currently exploring available grant options and potential funding sources.

Griffin opened a discussion with the Commissioners regarding the future use of the Prosper property. The Coquille River Mooring Dolphins Site Plan was reviewed. Three mooring dolphins were constructed approximately 20 years ago to accommodate a barge.

Several potential uses for the property were discussed, including a day-use boat dock: This could provide additional public access to the river; however, there were concerns that neighboring residents may not support this type of use. Private boat launch: A launch was discussed, but the anticipated cost would be significant, and grant funding would likely not be available for a private-use facility. Pole barn: Construction of a larger pole barn was suggested as a possible replacement for the existing deteriorating structure on the property.

Commissioner Goddard asked whether most of the property consisted of wetlands. Harbormaster Winchell explained that the primary wetland area is located on the west side of the property and is in a fixed location, with additional wetland area on the east side near the access road.

Commissioner Pullen expressed support for developing the property as a day-use area, noting the area's good bass and salmon fishing opportunities, including opportunities that do not require a boat. Pullen felt that a public-use area could also provide positive community relations for the Port. During further discussion regarding fishing opportunities, Pullen suggested that the Port consider how the property could support a greater fishery-related use.

Pullen also recommended considering how any future development plans could affect the Port's relationship with the current rental house tenant on the property.

Commissioner Butler noted that the property is prone to winter flooding and cautioned that a dock installed at the site may need to be removed seasonally. Harbormaster Winchell noted that the Port currently has docks in storage that may be available for future use.

Commissioner Starbuck asked about the property's current uses beyond the rental house. Harbormaster Winchell identified several existing uses, including storage, holiday decorations, concrete slabs, and a deteriorating ship's cabin from a vessel located on the property.

Griffin will develop a preliminary concept for a potential fishery/day-use area and explore possible uses for the property. Commissioners interested in touring the site were invited to coordinate with Harbormaster Winchell.

Griffin reported that he is working with a falconer to develop a plan to reduce and manage the pigeon population that has gathered on the roof of the Port's new office building. Port staff will receive training on the management and control protocols. Griffin will also work to schedule an in-person demonstration with the falconer for Port staff.

Harbormaster Winchell showed a video of the Stryker, a vessel determined to be unseaworthy, being towed along the Port's fishing dock by Commissioner Butler's charter vessel so it could be temporarily docked. The vessel was subsequently able to depart the Port without incident.

An update was provided on the Marauder, with reference to the work completed in Charleston. The vessel will remain in Charleston for the winter. The remaining work includes painting the top of the vessel.

Harbormaster Winchell reported that his crew continued working on final improvements in the restrooms and main office building. The project remains on schedule for the Port to receive its Letter of Occupancy from the City.

Kyle Electric has completed its work, and painters are currently painting the exterior of the building and trim. 541 Welding is completing the exterior handrails, and the plumber is expected to complete the exterior restroom work during the coming week.

Winchell is waiting for a response from the City of Bandon regarding whether the Port can use green paint to mark the curb area in question.

Winchell has also been in communication with the City of Bandon regarding the possibility of installing tube railing in front of Tony's Crab Shack to address safety concerns related to pedestrian traffic along 1st Street.

Commissioner Osborne asked whether the City of Bandon could consider extending the safety improvements to the entire area along 1st Street. Griffin suggested first determining what can be done in the specific area currently being addressed before considering improvements to the larger area.

Winchell presented a plan to pour and extend the sidewalk along 1st Street where the Tsunami Ball will be located. The plan also includes landscaping improvements designed to complement the existing landscaping in the area.

Winchell reported that a bid received for the work was higher than anticipated. He is therefore exploring an in-house option for completing the project. Commissioner Osborne will connect with Winchell regarding another potential contractor who may be able to provide an additional bid.

John Towne supports the Commissioners discussion regarding a Day-Use Area for the Prosper Property specifically in regard to kayak use. He also agrees items to be donated to the Bandon Museum if not used in Port's new Harbor Office.

Regular meeting was adjourned at 5:57pm

Respectfully submitted by

Holly von Damm