



Special Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, January 26, 2026

Call to Order

Commission President Jasmine Vasavada called a Special Commission meeting of the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners to order and open to the public at 5:01 p.m., Monday, January 26, 2026, at the Percival Plaza at 626 Columbia Street NW, Suite 1B, Olympics Room, in Olympia, Washington 98501.

Present

Commissioners: Jasmine Vasavada – President, Joel Hansen – Secretary, Jerry Toompas and Krag Unsoeld.

Attended Virtually: Commissioner Sarah Montano – Vice President.

Staff: Alex Smith, Executive Director, Chris Pierce-Wright, General Counsel; Warren Hendrickson, Director of Operations; Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development; Jon Wolf, Environmental Manager; Taber Lee, Marketing and Outreach Senior Manager; and Missy Goodell, Commission Coordinator.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Toompas seconded the motion. Commissioner Vasavada moved to amend the agenda, adding "Legislative Update" to the Action/Other calendar. Commissioner Hansen seconded the amended motion. Amended motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Alex Smith, Executive Director, reported on recent Port activities. She announced that several Port team members and commissioners had the opportunity to attend the January "State of the Community" forum hosted by the Thurston Chamber. The arrival of the Sandy Bay, a log export vessel, is expected this week. Port staff will be representing and showcasing Swantown Marina and Boatworks at the 2026 Seattle Boat Show. Staff is gearing up for the 2026 Legislative Port Day event next week, beginning February 6 at the Capitol Campus. The purpose of Port Day is to brief participants on Washington ports' legislative priorities and provide an opportunity to meet with state legislators to discuss key port-related issues.

In addition, Alex reminded everyone of the ways they can communicate with the Commission. She stated there is a great deal of information available on the Port's website and encouraged everyone to check it out.

Litigation Report

None.

Public Comment

Eight individuals provided public comment regarding a hand launch for sailors, bird counts, the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), the marine terminal warehouse, port finances, and peninsula planning.

Commission Response to Public Comment / Follow-Up to Public Comment

Each commissioner provided input to public comments.

Partner Spotlight

Experience Olympia & Beyond. Shauna Stewart, Interim CEO with Experience Olympia and Beyond (EOB), gave a presentation on the role that Experience Olympia & Beyond plays as a Thurston County destination marketing organization, and how their work aligns with the Port in areas of the marina, tourism, and economic development. Shauna discussed their Annual Report, performance, return on investment, website updates and visitor guide information. The EOB works to enhance the quality of life for residents.

Experience Olympia & Beyond's storytelling aligns with Port priorities, which includes highlighting the Port's maritime heritage, showcasing working waterfronts, and supporting business recruitment and retention, through a strongly placed identity by working with the Port and the EDC, etc.

EOB succeeds when the Port of Olympia succeeds and when the people who live here feel proud of the place that we're inviting the world to experience.

Consent Calendar

None.

Action Calendar

Commission Rules Resolution. Executive Director Alex Smith brought forward proposed amendments to the Commission Rules Resolution. Proposed changes included: making changes to public comment provisions; changing the deadline for registering to provide virtual public comment to 5 minutes after the start of the meeting; adding an opportunity for Commissioners to respond to public comments that were provided at the beginning of the meeting; and adding an opportunity for public comment towards the end of the meeting for members of the public who cannot provide comment earlier.

Motion: Commission Hansen moved to adopt Resolution 2026-02, amending Resolution 2025-03 regarding the transaction of Port business at Commission Meetings. Commissioner Toompas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Action/Other Calendar

Legislative Update. Kelsey Hulse, from Propolis Communications, provided an update to the Commission with 2026 legislative issues.

Advisory Calendar

Briefing: Budd Inlet Project Update. Jon Wolf, Environmental Manager, provided an informational presentation on the Budd Inlet Project. He shared what the project entails, reasons for sediment

sampling for data collection, and the financial impact of this cleanup. Next steps and the sampling timeline were offered.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Hansen reported he attended the Thurston County Chamber Forum, and the Tumwater Chamber of Commerce of meeting's "State of the Community" update where he was able to meet and talk with the new interim police chief, the existing fire chief and some of the new city council members. He also attended the Tenino Unity and Community Dinner, which was a combined dinner and award ceremony for the Tenino School District and the Tenino Chamber of Commerce; and at the invitation of the Tenino mayor, attended a meeting for some development plans for the Tenino Agricultural and Innovation Park. He attended a legislative reception with the Aerospace Futures Association. He was a guest speaker at the Evergreen State College Masters in Public Administration, where he shared how to navigate local government with students.

Commissioner Montano attended the "State of the Community" Forum hosted by the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, and she will attend the Lacey Chamber Forum next week.

Commissioner Toompas is talking with community groups, listening to concerns, obtaining information from Port staff, learning more about Vision 2050, looking at what parts of the county receive tax benefits, and doing a lot of fact finding. He is excited to attend Port Day at the Legislature, and will be attending a Yelm Chamber of Commerce meeting, and his first government-to-government meeting next week.

Commissioner Unsoeld shared that he also attended the Thurston County Chamber "State of the Community" Forum; he attended a meeting with Commissioner Hansen, Doug Mah, and David Shaffert and a Transportation Policy Board meeting.

Commissioner Vasavada shared that she also attended the Thurston County Chamber Forum, "State of the Community." She attended a meeting at the Olympia City Council with a large group of people of all ages for a meeting sponsored by the Olympia Council of Neighborhoods where neighborhood challenge and concerns were discussed.

Additional Public Comment

None.

Other Business

Commissioner Vasavada would like to discuss the delegation of authority at an upcoming Commission Work Session. Commissioners serving on the Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee (POCAC) as a Commission Committee Assignment was discussed. Commissioners Toompas and Unsoeld committed to attending the POCAC meetings as one of their Port Committee Assignments. It was suggested to conduct a joint meeting with the Port Commission and the POCAC to discuss the POCAC Resolution.

Commissioner Hansen requested a staff briefing on the budget especially the performance of the business lines; Commissioner Toompas agreed that he would like an overview of the pros and cons of the budget, and Commissioner Montano looks forward to hearing more about the warehouse.

Meeting Announcements

A list of upcoming events was displayed on the screen for viewers to see upcoming Commission and POCAC meetings. Executive Director Smith stated the next Commission meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners, the Monday, January 26, 2026, regular meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION

Jasmine Vasavada, President

Joel Hansen, Secretary