

Port of Brownsville

Newsletter July 2020



This newsletter is about one word **TRANSPARANCY!** There is lots to talk about so sit back and enjoy the information.



We would love to hear your comments and suggestions. Please take note that these can be dropped anytime at the payment box outside the office window. We will review all comments and suggestions and take them seriously.

Work Orders – many of you as tenants have issues near your slip, broken clete, loose board etc. In light of our timelines and keeping better track of billings we are asking for you to call or email the office with your work order. This will then be logged into the pending work orders, given a number and followed up as the schedule permits. As a standard maintainance will operate two weeks out. If a work order is given one day the work won't be completed for two weeks, but if it can be done sooner it will be.

Explanation and history of the Audit. As most of you know we just completed an on-site audit of our 2017 & 2018 financial statement and accountability. They were just scheduling our Exit Conference when a determination was made to include the 2019 audit and Forensic Audit with the 2017/2018 audit. This revision resulted in an overall audit price tag larger than any of us have seen and prompted a call to the audit team and a meeting to review these costs and ask for consideration to the Port. The auditors informed us that when they came on-site in 2018 to audit 2017, the 2017 statement was completely unauditale. It was lacking detail or substance to the conversion from GAAP to Cash and on the statement as a whole. This caused findings, concern for lack of controls and additional testing the next time they came out earlier this year. All of these have a cost involved and since the port was found deficient in several areas, their audit scope becomes larger and that drives up the audit cost and the cost to the Port to respond to the audit issues. They cannot lower our cost but they allow installments and they made a promise that if the port is serious about their controls and procedures to support these controls they will have a much quicker and less expensive visit the next audit cycle. Staff will be busy implementing new procedures and policies that may be different than what you are used to, but please be patient and don't blame those just trying to follow the rules and laws.



Examples of these changes noted above will be use of port assets. Employees have just signed a document stating no port assets (tools and equipment) will be used by anyone other than port employees and for any reason other than the betterment or maintainance of the port. Those of you who may have "borrowed" tools in the past are no longer able to do that so please keep this in mind and do not blame the staff. These practices have always been prohibited by state statute but this was never enforced. We need to push forward to show the auditors that this port means business and we want to be on a forward path without getting any findings because of our strong internal controls.

We continue to look for summer help. Please stop into the office to fill out an application. If interested these jobs potentially could become permanent at some future date.



Commissioners' Meeting:

The regularly scheduled meeting **will be July 15th (changed from 8th) at 6:00 P.M.**

The meeting will be hosted using Zoom.

Meeting ID: 911 7891 6800 PW: 389793

To Access by phone, dial 1-253-215-8782 and follow the instructions to enter the meeting. Please keep your device muted as repeated interruptions may result in your removal from the meeting.

For updates and information on the Coronavirus:

[Coronavirus.wa.gov](https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov)