



25 February 2020

Director Will Isom and the Port of Astoria Commission
422 Gateway Ave., Suite 100
Astoria, OR 97103

Director Isom and members of the commission,

Since its creation in 2004, The Seaside Airport Advisory Committee has been instrumental in bringing about needed improvements at the Seaside Municipal Airport. With prior Grants and matching funds from the city, improvements have included upgraded drainage, taxiway and runway repairs and realignment, new rotating beacon and tower, new runway lighting, obstruction removal and aviation easements, security fencing, and improved visitor parking. Much of this work was accomplished by local contractors, and all were 90-95% funded through FAA airport improvement grants. The committee's work has also facilitated a new hangar building, though few other services are available to attract more flying visitors – a key goal of the committee.

Recently the FAA underwent a reclassification of small airports, and in the process, Seaside was dropped from the list of airports eligible for funding under NPIAS. Since then, the only assistance the City of Seaside receives is the state PMP (Pavement Maintenance Program) every two years.

Small as it may be, the airport nevertheless represents a not-insignificant economic impact for the area. According to the Oregon Department of Aviation's 2019 economic analysis*, Seaside airport provides more than \$800,000 in direct and indirect spending and payroll to the state and local community. This includes, for example, pilots who fly into Seaside airport but go to Astoria for fuel and maintenance services.

According to the county's department of assessment and taxation, residents of Seaside and Gearhart pay close to \$200,000 in combined taxes to the port each year (see

attached). It seems reasonable to expect that the port would help by providing some return on the south county taxpayer's investment in the form of support for our airport.

In order to continue with the work of improving the airport, the city is requesting the Port of Astoria's financial assistance with the following, in order of necessity:

- Replacement tie down chains and anchors: \$15,000
- Pilot bicycle storage shed: \$6,500
- Asphalt overlay, aircraft parking ramp: \$40,000
- Crack seal and slurry coat taxiway: \$60,000
- Runway 16 PAPI: \$55,000
- Runway 16 REIL: \$60,000
- Airport courtesy car, and ongoing support for same: \$5000

This letter is to request a meeting with the Port Authority to develop a financial plan to help finance projects over time using south county tax monies already being collected for our south county Airport.

Respectfully yours,

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Cc: Randall Henderson
Airport Committee

* Ref. <https://www.oregon.gov/aviation/plans-and-programs/Documents/OAP/2019/10OAP-Ch8-Economic-Impact.pdf>