

# Whatcom County Business and Commerce Committee

**January 24, 2022, 11-12:30pm**

## Zoom Meeting

<https://portofbellingham.zoom.us/j/98331967758?pwd=c3BZclhRYWQwSTRBRkJRdHlDSm9Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 983 3196 7758

Passcode: 427720

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://portofbellingham.zoom.us/u/ablptGVhKW>

Contact [jennifern@portofbellingha.com](mailto:jennifern@portofbellingha.com) if you would like an Outlook invite sent to you.

**This is the same Zoom information as the Outlook calendar invite for the recurring meeting.**

## Agenda

**Call meeting to order** (5 min)

**Introductions / Comments from the Public** (5 min)

**Administrative business** (10 min)

- Approve minutes from November 2021 meeting
- Open voting member positions: food processing & manufacturing
- Nominations and election of a new Vice-Chair for 2022
- Approve 2022 draft schedule: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 11-1230, unless a holiday

**Update on flood damages and looking forward** given by Whatcom County Long Term Recovery lead, former Sumas Mayor Kyle Christensen , CJ Seitz (Business Recovery Taskforce lead) (20 min)

- Questions from the committee (20 min)

**Update on Bellingham homeless camps and looking forward** given by Lt. Johnson, BPD (10 min)

- What resources are available and have openings?
- What laws, barriers do police force and any mental health/addiction support have to work through to help clear the camps?
- What is plan regarding future for camps for Bellingham and Whatcom County?
- What support / plan does police and mental health/addiction specialist moving forward?
- Questions from the committee (15 min)

**Update on Safran and Alcoa** given by Port of Bellingham's Economic Development Director, Don Goldberg (5 min)

**Update on ARPA spending** given by Whatcom County Council representative, Councilmember Byrd (5 min)

**Close**

**Next meeting:** Monday, February 28, 2022 11am (note: February 21 is a holiday)

*Potential Future Meeting Topics:*

- *Future of flood mitigation in Whatcom County*
- *Impact of COB Initiatives #2 and #3 passing*
- *Status of American Rescue Plan relief dollars in Whatcom County*
- *WTA routes and business linkages*
- *WADOT Infrastructure and Operations (rest stop closures on I-5, driver shortage)*
- *Water Rights in Whatcom County – Presentation from PUD, update from Brad Rader*
- *Cherry Point Master Planning / Infrastructure*
- *Status of Permanent Affordability of Child Care in Whatcom County*
- *Status of Affordable Housing in Whatcom County, items related to annexations, Buildable Lands, EDI program, COB Planning Director search, Worker Housing in Whatcom County – Updates from POB Economic Development*
- *Presentation on Bellis Fair Mall Repurpose/Redevelopment*
- *Updates on County financials and budgets, economic resiliency of the County*
- *Port industrial and commercial land report – what is occupied, what is vacant, who is there?*
- *All Sectors: Near term business impacts of the on-going labor shortage (brief update from sectors with +40 employees)*