

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIR SERVICE GRANT CLOSEOUT

With the completion of the fiscal year 2010/2011 audit, the City of Newport undertook the first step in closing out the grants that were awarded for commercial air service. The city partnered with the Port of Astoria for commercial air service provided by SeaPort Airlines, and formed the Air Service Consortium to jointly manage the air service.

Once the audit was concluded, the city was able to establish the final expenditures related to the air service. City of Newport Finance Director, David Marshall, recently sent a letter to the Port of Astoria reviewing the program from its inception to present. In this letter, Marshall included a financial status of the program outlining final revenues and expenses of the project. Grants covered all but approximately 4%, resulting in a balance of \$164,471 that was to be split equally between the city and port, according to the governance agreement. These are monies that have been paid by the city for which the Port of Astoria was notified that its share of the balance is \$82,236 representing one-half of these expenses.

Marshall has prepared extensive supporting documentation establishing the program costs, agreements between the city and port, and clarifying the amount due the city from the port.

City Manager, Jim Voetberg, stated that he has “confidence in the financial and program information prepared by Marshall, and expects that the issue will be resolved expediently.” He added, “The City of Newport paid these funds in good faith and anticipates that the Port of Astoria will repay the city for its share of the costs incurred by the Air Service Consortium.”

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