

Port votes no on FEMA funds

TILLAMOOK – The Port of Tillamook Bay Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 on Sept. 15 against permitting the Bunkers Group to use any portion of \$44 million the port expects to get in FEMA funds.

The Bunkers Group had lobbied hard for the port to give it \$20 million of the FEMA funding.

Following an executive session last week, port Commissioner Jim Young introduced the motion to prohibit using FEMA funds for a proposed golf resort project. He, Commissioner John Ficher and board president Jerry Dove voted to deny the funds. Commissioners Ken Bell and Art Riedel opposed that action.

“They (Bunkers Group) were hoping to use FEMA funds as the nut to leverage future funds,” said Michele Bradley, the port’s general manager.

Still, the Sept. 15 vote does not put an end to the proposed golf and convention center, said Bradley. “This doesn’t kill the project; all it does is basically let it go back to the original development agreement from 2002.”

That agreement stipulated the

Bunkers Group would sell revenue bonds to pay for the project it hopes to build.

