

**MINUTES *\*REVISED\****  
**NOME PORT COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:33 pm by Vice-Chairman Lean in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: C. Lean, C. Henderson; C. Rowe (telephonically); C. McLarty;

Absent: C. Smithhisler; C. West; C. Michels

Also Present: Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster; Joy Baker, Port Director (telephonically); Tom Moran, City Manager

In the audience: Zoe Grueskin, KNOM; Sandra Medearis, Arctic News

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice-Chairman Lean asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

A motion was made by McLarty and seconded by Henderson.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean, Henderson, Rowe, McLarty,

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 18, 2017 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by C. McLarty and seconded by C. Henderson to approve the minutes.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Rowe, McLarty, Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS** None

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- 17-11-24 Northern Bering Sea Groundfish & Crab Trawl Survey Highlights
- 17-12-01 R-17-12-01 City/Port Federal Legislative Priorities
- 17-12-01 R-17-12-02 City/Port State Legislative Priorities

**Discussion:**

Lean made a few comments on the crab trawl survey; stating that Pollock are up by a factor of 65 and Pacific Cod are up by a factor of 10 from ten years ago, and if that is a trend, we have one of the world's

biggest commercial fisheries in our back yard. Pacific Cod are very important commercially, and the local bread & butter (crab) are holding their own although down a few percent. Henderson inquired about how the impacts local fishermen; Lean indicated Pacific Cod could fit into local halibut fishery fairly easily as they catch them by accident, so there's room for local fishing on cod which are relatively close to Nome for local, larger boats. Pollock are out on the date line and would take a larger vessel. Henderson asked if all local boats could fish the Pollock. Lean indicated it would take larger vessels but the local boats could fish the Pacific Cod with pots or long line, but most common is to trawl which is currently not allowed. Henderson asked if this increase was due to warmer waters and if boats large enough to fish the Pollock, could they access the Nome Port. Lean indicated yes, mostly due to warmer waters and yes, the trawlers could access the Port docks but likely draw 20 feet. McLarty asked about the halibut and Arctic cod numbers showing a decrease; Lean replied the halibut numbers are down Pacific-wide, not just Norton Sound and Arctic Cod is important to the food chain and subsistence fisheries, but it is not a commercial species.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (18-01-11 Report)**

In the CM's absence, PD Baker pointed out the attached state lobbyists report on items of interest being addressed during the legislative session.

#### **HARBORMASTER'S REPORT (Verbal)**

HM Stotts gave a brief report on the initial schedule for cruise ships scheduling for the season, as well as the monthly cargo sailings. Impound round IV is closing out with more than half paying in full, three signing payment agreements and 3 being impounded.

#### **Discussion:**

Henderson mentioned seeing equipment being exported and wondered if contractors are shipping south. Stotts and Baker indicated that no, it's more reflective of equipment being redistributed around the region based on work, or moved to another site based on anticipated work. McLarty asked if it's possible to get the quantity of tons/gallons moving inbound versus outbound on a calendar year back to 2013. Baker indicated yes, that can be discerned from reports generated in the Caselle billing system.

#### **PORT DIRECTOR REPORT (Projects Update) (18-01-15 Report)**

PD Baker highlighted that the Alaska Corps District did award the 2018-2020 dredging contract to Alaska Marine Excavation, the same contractor that's had it for many years. Also, attached is the current F19 budget through 12/31/17, as well as the updated vessel traffic figures through 2017.

#### **Discussion:**

Henderson asked about the higher numbers for bulk cargo and fuel in 2017; what's behind that? Baker stated that these figures reflect all dates at the dock for each vessel, so weather/other delays play a factor.

#### **ADOT/PDC Engineers – Port Road Triangle Intersection Alternatives**

PD Baker explained the alternatives from PDC (under contract to ADOT) to address traffic safety at the triangle intersection at the Port. There have been several iterations, but the compromise before you is the latest plan to address all concerns and minimize impact to port truck traffic.

#### **Discussion:**

McLarty inquired on if the truck scales will remain at the intersection, and where the scale-bound traffic from the north will cross the road to access the ramp. Baker indicated there has been discussion with PDC on exactly where the best crossing location would be, as well as the Port internally considering whether to push a track scale site further off that shoulder onto a separate site. Those details will follow once the concept has been identified. Lean stated his concern was to ensure forklifts can carry 40-foot cans when needed; Baker advised she received word back from the cargo companies that carrying 40-footers is not a

common occurrence. Lean also asked about whether paved roadway was going to be elevated, which will prevent free-style driving and limit the ability to maneuver out of the way of large trucks and lifts. Baker advised that details on design would be considered into the future, but conceptual was the current goal.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Proposed Changes to NCO Chapter 12 and Port Tariff to Address Repeated Delinquent User Accounts

#### **Discussion:**

Further discussion is necessary so there is no action on this item.

Lean stated there definitely is need for further discussion regarding the over-side fueling issue with the Council, during a potential work session. Baker advised we will tentatively schedule for 2/12, and once confirmed, notice will be provided to the group.

**NEW BUSINESS** There was none.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS** - None

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

C. McLarty – indicated he would like to see what options are available for storing/shipping the materials versus processing locally, and a cost comparison. Also, been digging into storage rates at other facilities and will be presenting that to the Commission for consideration for alternatives or possible tariff revision.

C. Rowe – no comments, but do plan to provide input on waste reception plan.

Henderson – good work session and meeting. The next time we look to review the tariff during w/s or meeting, I was looking at the Cordova report and saw that there are multiple forecasts that it would be helpful to have the updated information for, if that's possible, to give an idea for gravel, fuel and cargo.

C. Lean – does have comments on the draft feasibility plan for the Waste Reception Facility that he will provide via email. Also, the tariff discussions are always the toughest part of the duties. I'm very interested in the waste stream investigation we are doing. The fisheries thing is always my big interest and the same study shows a strong King Crab recruitment about 3 years out, even though the numbers are down right now, so it's not all bad. You can look at the Pacific Ocean and see different bands for different areas, and say those bands migrate north and we have been on the northern edge of those bands and now we're becoming more central, so the truth is we're seeing more fish.

#### **SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting: February 15, 2018 at 5:30 PM.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by C. Henderson for adjournment – meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

**APPROVED and SIGNED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

  
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Charlie Lean, Vice-Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
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Joy Baker, Port Director