

**MINUTES  
NOME PORT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 20th, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:39pm by Chairman West in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Lean; West; Henderson (telephonically); Rowe; Sheffield, (telephonically); McLarty;

Absent: Smithhisler (excused);

Also Present: Joy Baker, Port Director; Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster;

In the audience: Sandra Medearis, Arctic News; Emily Hofstaedter, KNOM; Julie Liew, Finance Director; David Arzt, Alaska Marine Pilots; Randy Harper, port user; Nora Burns, Mayor of Kaktovik (telephonically);

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

Motion was made by Lean to amend the agenda with the placement of a letter from John Keeley with Phoenix Marine for consideration under New Business, seconded by Rowe.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Rowe, Sheffield, McLarty, Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

August 16, 2018                      Motion was made by Rowe, seconded by McLarty to approve the minutes:  
Regular Meeting

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Rowe, Sheffield, McLarty

Nays:

Abstain: West, Lean

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

David Arzt, with Alaska Marine Pilots spoke about his experience with pilot work at Nome and AMP's support of the port expansion and assisting with the Corps study for proposed navigation simulations.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- 18-07-03 Northern Sea Route is Alive & Well – High North News

- 18-08-22 World's Largest Shipping Company Heads into Arctic - NPR
- 18-09-06 Venta Maersk Container Ship AIS Shot (Near Nome)
- 18-09-14 SNC Letter of Support for Nome Port-WRDA 2018 language

Discussion: None

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (18-09-10 Report)**

There was nothing specific to the Port – therefore no comments.

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

HM Stotts provided a brief update on vessel traffic, with additional information regarding the scheduled installation of the deadman anchor at the barge ramp. Pending traffic and crew availability, this should happen near the end of the month. Data reports are being successfully received by CDIP technicians and a buoy retrieval schedule is being planned for removal in early-mid October.

Discussion:

(Complications with audio prevented any capture of discussion/questions.)

#### **PORT DIRECTOR REPORT (Projects Update) (18-09-17 Report)**

PD Baker updated a few items contained in her report; the Corps ship simulation scheduled for mid-Nov has been postponed to Feb/Mar of 2019 and the final survey on the Cape project has been submitted to PND for review. Upon concurrence that the survey shows the design intent has been met, the project will be deemed complete and grant closeout procedures will commence immediately.

Discussion:

West asked if a copy of the survey could be provided – PD Baker indicated it will be at the October meeting.

#### **WRDA 2018 – S. 3021 Excerpt**

PD Baker read the section to the group that highlighted Nome's expansion project being listed as one of the Corps' projects that would be expedited into the preconstruction, engineering, design (PED) phase, once the Secretary of the Army determines that the project is justified in a report.

#### **F14-F18 Port Budget Tariff Comparison**

PD Baker advised the group that this multi-year report is being delivered as promised, showing "unaudited" F18 figures that are still changing to some degree as all entries have not been made. Once the audit is complete (late Oct), final numbers will be available and brought back to the Commission

Discussion:

Finance Director Liew echoed that it is preliminary as final entries are still being made. West asked if the Port had paid off the City for the 18 acre Thornbush property had been purchased – yes. Julie reiterated that some additional expenses needed to be transferred for the Port's cost-share of project costs, so the surplus showing will ultimately be reduced by another \$141K +/- . Further discussion occurred regarding the debt service (NOAA bonds @ \$300K +/-) and fluctuation in labor costs, which is based on number of staff and how many finance staff hours are attributed to the port each year.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the burial depth of the deadman anchor and whether the connection would be above ground or recessed below the surface. HM Stotts responded that link would be recessed.

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Consideration to establish tariff rate for construction debris

PD Baker explained the purpose for the agenda item was to bring attention to a recent decision by the City Administration to no longer accept construction debris from communities outside of Nome. However, there were complaints that most communities were unaware of this new rule and were only discovering it after shipping debris to Nome by barge. Additionally, other communities were actually successfully getting their debris disposed of in the monofill as they were working with local Nome contractors who were picking up at the dock and delivering to the monofill. PD Baker asked the City Manager to reconsider this decision as it conflicted with Nome's intent to be the regional shipping hub, and perhaps efforts to expand the monofill through a grant funded project is the solution. It was decided to bring this to the Commission for input and consideration on a specific tariff rate for that material.

#### Discussion:

West stated expansion of the monofill would be the call of the City. Rowe added, that it sounded like it is inevitable that the monofill is going to need to be expanded regardless if we were to accept regional waste or not. If the Port can have influence or not, and we can expand it for accepting the regional debris, then I would be all for it, rather than it going somewhere else as there are local entities that benefit from it. Lean stated he agreed, and although I don't know what the costs are, or if it's conceivable if a large private entity outside City limits could decide to open a monofill, but I'd feel better if a government entity was the monitor of pollution standards. Also, one of the points of our sales job on this port expansion is to keep the Arctic clean, and if we can't even handle our own local issues, then we lack creditability. I suggest the City come up with a higher rate and a location to accept this debris.

#### Motion:

The following motion was moved by Lean and seconded by McLarty:

Request Common Council give strong consideration to the idea of expansion or further development of a commercial construction debris waste facility for disposal of local and regional materials.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, Rowe, Sheffield, McLarty, Lean, West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

### John Keeley w/Phoenix Marine – request to winter in Jack-up rig inside inner harbor.

#### Discussion:

Mr. Keeley verbally stated his request to winter his vessel inside the harbor, with the commitment to elevate the platform to a specific height off the ice and distance from the dock that is deemed satisfactory to the Port Commission and Administration. Discussion ensued about the precise location of the barge to be located in the south east corner of the harbor, adjacent to the gravel ramp, with minimal equipment aboard the platform. Power packs will remain to control the hydraulics necessary to jack-up the platform, but the units use the environmentally friendly biodegradable oil.

#### Motion:

The following motion was moved by McLarty and seconded by Rowe:

Recommend authorization be given to Phoenix Marine to overwinter one jack-up platform barge in the southeast corner of the Small Boat Harbor, with specific height of platform and distance from the dock to be determined by port staff at the time of vessel placement, with required liability coverage in place.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Rowe, Sheffield, McLarty, Lean, West, Henderson

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Randy Harper expressed his support for Nome to accept regional construction debris from the smaller communities, even though there is clearly a cost to expanding these facilities.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

C. Sheffield – can we get a copy of the Port Strategic Development Plan electronically, and is the Arctic Consultancy something we wish to consider, should we offer the proposal out to others? Also, she heard from the National Weather Service and we are going into the fall with ocean temps that are warmer than last year's ocean temps.

C. Henderson - None

C. Rowe – appreciate Mr. Harper's comments on the monofill. He thinks the purpose of the Port Commission is to work on Port issues but recommends he provide his thoughts at the Council meetings when this is presented.

C. McLarty – Port looks good this season.

C. Lean – None

C. West - None

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

The next meeting is SCHEDULED to October 18, 2018

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by McLarty and seconded by Rowe for adjournment – 8:24 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 2018.

ATTEST:

Joy Baker, Port Director

Jim West, Chairman