

**MINUTES  
NOME PORT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 8th, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:35 pm by Vice-Chairman Lean in Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 102 Division Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: C. Smithhisler, C. Lean, C. West, C. Henderson; C. Rowe; C. McLarty;

Absent: None

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

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

A motion was made by McLarty and seconded by Smithhisler.

At the Roll Call:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 15, 2018 Regular Meeting

Lean asked for a motion to approve the minutes:

A motion was made by Lean, seconded by McLarty to approve the minutes as amended.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson, McLarty, McLarty, Smithhisler, Lean

Nays:

Abstain: West, Rowe (absent)

The motion **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Colby Engstrom updated on his ongoing plans to start up a laundry facility – still considering a couple of locations but still feels that the harbor location is the best. He's spoken with PD Baker on two sites within the harbor – but there is no water/sewer infrastructure near his preferred site at the corner of Seppala and F St. The alternative site would be behind the Harbor Office along Belmont St as the water/sewer main is in place, but a stubout to the business would be required. Commissioner Rowe requested a copy of Mr. Engstrom's Business Plan if available.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Alaska Dept. of Transportation 2018-2021 Draft STIP Listing (Nome)
- Alaska Senate Bill 92 - Derelict Vessels Act
- Alaska House Bill 386 - Vessels: Registrations/Titles, Derelicts
- Alaska House Joint Resolution 33 – Establishment of an Arctic Naval Station

### Discussion:

PD Baker highlighted the DOT STIP information as identifying the state's anticipated schedule for the Port Road Reconstruction Project (and other Nome roads).

PD Baker added a briefing on legislation currently underway in the House/Senate regarding abandoned and derelict vessels and another concerning the legislature's request to the Congressional Delegation to establish an Arctic Naval Station due to lacking infrastructure.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** (18-03-05 Report)

CM Manager highlighted a few items on the report; the Mayor and Port Director testified in support of HJR 33 for the Arctic Naval Station during the Arctic Policy, Economic Development & Tourism Committee. There were a few questions from the body that the Mayor and Port Director were able to answer regarding Nome's existing port infrastructure.

Personal Property Taxes for all property stored in City limits (including port users) are going out next week. Congratulations to Vice-Chairman Lean for his 31 years of service on the Ambulance Dept. Manager Moran added support for Mr. Engstrom's plan to start a laundry operation, as he and the Mayor have advocated for quality of life issues since beginning their current roles.

### Discussion:

Various thoughts on how

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

HM Stotts is still full-time with the Public Works Road Crew but has fielded calls and emails for booking dock space, quotes for services from new users and for accessing storage. NOAA's Fairweather has booked a number of 4-5 day calls at the Port, and plans to repeat their plan to use ISO tanks as holding cells for their black water (sewage) while at the dock, and have the local contractor service them before shipping south in the fall.

### **PORT DIRECTOR REPORT (Projects Update)** (18-03-05 Report)

PD Baker touched on a couple of items; first, there has been no word yet on the USDOT Tiger funding application for developing the Snake River.

### Discussion:

Commissioner McLarty asked about the ice conditions and whether the river excavation was going to occur. Yes, the contractor inquired about building an ice platform from which to work, which was pushed to the Army Corps who concurred that would also be in line with our project permit.

**OLD BUSINESS** There was none

### **NEW BUSINESS**

NCO 12.10 – Nome Port Commission:

#### Discussion:

Manager Moran highlighted the purpose of putting the ordinance identifying the Port Commission code into the packet, was to show the updated sections. More specifically to point out that there is direction for the group to elect the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary within the group, although the Secretary role is essentially handled administratively. Therefore, he recommends that once there is a full body (7<sup>th</sup> member to be appointed at the 3/26/18 meeting) present, there should be an informal selection for the required positions.

#### Port & Harbor Projects Listing – Prioritization of Deferred Maintenance:

PD Baker addressed the project spreadsheet, pointing out the pending repair and maintenance items on the last page that need prioritization by the group to create an order for the work to be performed.

#### Discussion:

Lean inquired about the nature of the fuel line hangers/rollers – whether they were in danger of failing or just needed replacement. PD Baker stated the rollers/hangers were installed in 2005 and are now corroded and seized based on the exposure to the sea, but are still adequately support the pipes encasing the fuel lines. These are inspected each year by staff along with our fuel hydrotesting contractor, and have not reached emergency status. However, it would be prudent to make this a priority and get the work accomplished.

McLarty inquired about the fuel companies using the lines to move product helping to pay for the work needed at the bridge. PD Baker replied that the wharfage they pay is intended to do just that, and the City's responsibility, as the facility owner, is to keep the lines in functioning condition with annual certified pressure tests.

West commented that the barge ramp will need to be taken out of service in order to be repaired. PD Baker agreed, stating that once a project is defined, funded, bid and a contractor hired, the idea is to allow all of the vessels to launch in June/early July, then taking the ramp out of service for the repair period.

General discussion continued on a variety of strategies to address the facility's repair/maintenance needs. The following was recommended by the Commission to prioritize the most important needs on the list:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Annual Hydrotests and Cathodic Protection (Fuel Lines) | \$ 20,000 |
| 2. Causeway Bridge Hangers/Rollers (Fuel Lines)           | \$ 50,000 |
| 3. Launch Ramp Repair                                     | \$200,000 |
| 4. Harbor Skiff/Motor Replacement                         | Unknown   |
| 5. Garco Building Upgrade                                 | \$450,000 |

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

None

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

C. Henderson – encouraged by the work session that highlighted the miners concerns with the USCG regulations, and the money this fleet spends in Nome. I'm glad we are encouraging this business activity, and although we may not be able to achieve the goals they have, the reality is the money they spend in one season dramatically overshadows any percentage gain we would achieve with a tariff increase. So I like the fact that we're listening to them and encouraging this business activity with a more attractive port.

C. McLarty – I too would like to say the work session went well and was actually surprised at the numbers expressed during work session. Looking through the list of the capital improvements we need to do, I think

anything we can do to encourage these large mining operations to come to town, should be done. Any way we can get these larger operators here, is a goal we should pursue.

C. Smithhisler – in my role with the Nome Eskimo Community, I'd like state that we have updated our Long Range Transportation Plan to include the Port as a facility, and once approved, the Port will be eligible to receive funds for infrastructure. The plan is currently at the BIA office for approval but the tribe is onboard.

C. Rowe – thinking about the potential exemptions discussed at the work session, whoever does speak to the USCG should find out if there's an option for the Port to apply for an exemption rather than the vessel owners. This would be good information to have for discussion. The USCG is probably like most federal compliance agencies, who normally work with folks seeking to meet federal regulation.

C. Lean – interested in the ADAC meeting and perhaps the Charrette, with the caveat that I may need to travel with my wife, but hope to join. I too am surprised at the USCG rules, and it strikes me as inconsistent that Cook Inlet clear out to the Barren Islands, these are swept clean from the storms that go through there, but it's okay as an exempt area. We should broach the idea of Sledge Island to Stewart Island as some kind of exemption line. But I am a big proponent of marine safety and after being involved in numerous rescues with fatalities, it is important to have some kind of standard. On the laundry facility, it would be a major addition to the Port, and after living in other major communities, they all have a laundry facility and the City of Nome could use one as well.

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

The next meeting is RESCHEDULED to April 19, 2019

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by C. Smithhisler for adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018.

  
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Jim West, Jr., Chairman

**ATTEST:**



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Joy Baker, Port Director