

**MINUTES
NOME PORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
August 18th, 2016**



The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 5:33pm by Acting Chairman Alvanna-Stimpfle in City Hall, located at 102 Division Street, with Chairman West assuming the role upon arrival.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle; Jim West, Jr.; Mark Johnson; Tony Cox; Mike Sloan;

Members Absent: C. Lean (excused); Doug Johnson

Also Present: Joy Baker, Port Director; Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster; Shauntel Bruner, Recording Secretary

In the audience: Lauren Frost, KNOM; Sandra Medearis, Arctic News

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Alvanna-Stimpfle asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

A motion was made by C. M Johnson and seconded by C. Sloan to approve the agenda as presented.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: M Johnson, Cox, Alvanna-Stimpfle, Sloan, West Jr.

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by C. Cox and seconded by C. M Johnson to approve the revised June 2016 and the July 2016 minutes.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: M Johnson, Cox, West Jr., Alvanna-Stimpfle, Sloan

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. A letter from Mayor Richard Beneville to Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister dated August 1st, 2016.
- B. An article published by YourAKLink Newsroom on August 10th, 2016 titled "New Fish Inventory Can Assist in Arctic Policy-making."
- C. An article written by Yereth Rosen in August 2016 titled "Arctic fish populations changing as ice dwindles, report says."
- D. A letter from Congressman Don Young, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Dan Sullivan to The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works.

There were no questions or comments on the communications.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (Written)

PD Baker mentions that the City Manager wanted to make sure that everyone had information regarding the Arctic Chinook training and exercise - included in the packet.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- Coast Guard was recently in town and helped with beach and museum/library cleanup as well as helping with the painting of the fire hall.
- Addressed some small issues around the port such as toilet misuse and other facility challenges in the small boat harbor.
- August is starting to slow down after a very busy June and July and that time is going toward various repairs and maintenance needed around the port.
- Discusses the prepping for Crystal Serenity cruise ship such as implementing parking restrictions and clearing the floating docks for tenders. Includes that temporary parking will be available for port users.
- Reviewed the current forecast and how it may potentially affect the vessel coming into port.

Discussion:

C. Alvanna-Stimpfle asks if there is a fine in place for anyone caught misusing the bathroom facilities.

HM Stotts responds that there are no fines in place, but they are looking into installing cameras or shutting down the bath facility if abuse continues.

C. M Johnson asks if there are any alternative options

HM Stotts responds that he is looking into various options such as different types of toilets or tools that could help alleviate misuse.

Port Director Report / Projects Update (Written)

- Thanks HM Stotts and his staff for all of his hard work prepping for the Crystal Serenity visit.

- Talks about updates to her report including traffic and dock occupancy which was at 75% for June and 92% for July. Both of which are very good.
- Reviewed the letter received regarding the Arctic Deep Draft Port.
- Participated in a meeting with Sitnasuak who indicated they would potentially be interested in a partnership with the City on long term development of the Deep Draft Port.
- Port pad development bid is anticipated sometime in mid to late September. Council approved the use of the GO Bonds which currently must be expended by December 2017.
- Mentions that after another lengthy discussion with FEMA, we are able to issue the Notice of Intent to Award the Base Bid and Alt #1 to KNIK Construction for the Cape Jetty Repair.

Discussion:

Chairman West asks if that was a rebid as the first round came back significantly high.

PD Baker responds that yes, this was the second round and we received two bids and KNIK was the lowest.

C. M Johnson asks if FEMA pays that entire amount, with **Chairman West** asks if any matching funds are required.

PD Baker explains that all funds are coming from the Federal disaster program with a zero match.

OLD BUSINESS

- At the last Port Commission meeting, discussion on how to prioritize port projects was discussed. PD Baker goes through the provided chart of various projects and costs for the group. She continues by explaining that the list is already organized by priority and status of fund. She suggests starting off by prioritizing pending projects, then discussing maintenance.

Discussion:

Chairman West starts the discussion by asking about the scrap vessel that Raven was interested in.

PD Baker replies that they have talked to the City a few times, but their proposals keep changing. The new mission is to get the project completed with the bulk of the work being done in house to keep everything affordable. She suggests that HM Stotts update the commission as him and his assistant have been working on the vessel this week.

HM Stotts explains that there is a large amount of liquid in the scrap vessel that they are working on pumping out. His plan is to have the majority of the oil out to pump by the end of next week. He will also be draining other equipment in the vessel. Once completed, the inside will be pressured washed and walls will be steam cleaned. The ultimate goal is to get the vessel rolled over and hauled away once cleaning is complete.

C. Cox suggests turning the vessel into a tourist spot.

C. M Johnson adds that the vessel does have history prior to arriving in Nome.

C. Sloan adds that we could even donate it to the museum.

Chairman West brings up that Raven is working near that area and perhaps they would even take it out of there if it is clean.

PD Baker states that they have provided a quote for hauling off but again, the number keeps going up so it could end up costing us more money as opposed to disposing of it ourselves.

PD Baker transitions back to the projects explaining that she added the Dead Man project but it wasn't included on the handout. She briefly goes through each project listed on the hand out and explains where we are in terms of progress and possible funding – whether there would be outside funds available, what we would have to match or what would be done in-house.

Chairman West inquires when the Causeway fuel lines were put in.

PD Baker responds that the 8 inch pipe line was installed when the NJUS tank farm went up in 1988. The two 6 inch lines were added with the BFI tank farm that went up in 1994.

Chairman West asks if there would be a benefit of replacing the pipeline when extensions are put in.

PD Baker responds by saying that there have been no signs indicating that they should.

HM Stotts adds that there is slight scarring under the bridge by the rollers and they are already working on replacing the rollers but otherwise everything looks good.

C. Alvanna-Stimpfle asks about the state regulated dumping limitations, explaining that she heard about debris showing up on shore in other places.

PD Baker and HM Stotts both clarify that there should be zero dumping in near-shore waters and explain there is a minimum limit where ships can dump.

C. Alvanna-Stimpfle continues by asking if in the port expansion project there will be a place for waste removal for the ships

PD Baker explains it would be part of a utility expansion port in the future.

C. Alvanna-Stimpfle adds that she thinks it would be an important utility to have especially considering the growth of tourism in the area.

PD Baker agrees and mentions other utilities such as power, better restroom facilities and telecommunication access, as well as the extension of existing fuel and fresh water infrastructure.

C. M Johnson asks if these types of services would be a fee generator.

Both PD Baker and HM Stotts reply affirmatively.

HM Stotts continues by explaining that depending on time and frequency of use, some of these utility services could ultimately pay for themselves.

PD Baker adds that she knows there is a lot of interest based on our remote location to have something available to those passing through the port. She adds that at some point it would be ideal

to accept regulated waste as well. Currently it is cost prohibitive because there is no local disposal or incinerator facilities to allow it to be processed per regulation. We will get there in the future.

HM Stotts includes that he has received a number of requests from some of the larger vessels this season inquiring about bilge water discharge.

C. Alvanna-Stimpfle suggests that we prepare all of these points given the level of traffic, so that we can include in our argument to the Secretary of the Army Corps why we need an expansion now and what issues and challenges we frequently face.

PD Baker asks the group if they have any thoughts on any of the pending projects as the goal is to determine what may be reasonably obtainable and cost effective for the small boat harbor based on the short season. Most of the issues that warrant discussion require input from utilities. There may be challenges justifying such costs due to being a seasonal facility and likely final decisions will be based on costs. She furthermore suggests breaking down each proposed project and looking at how we can seek assistance from private enterprise or outside investment to develop.

C. M Johnson asks what services are the most frequently requested by the port users as a whole.

HM Stotts replies that flush toilets, showers and an overall improved restroom facilities seem to be the most requested by dredgers and fishermen who often live on their boats. Additionally, there are a few requests for shore side power.

C. Alvanna-Stimpfle asks if there private sector companies that could help answer questions about operating or would help with costs.

PD Baker responds that the port has talked to NSEDC in the past about working together to put showers in the harbor. She continues by mentioning that perhaps we should have a work session and invite port users to come and discuss their interest in additional port facilities. Having a work session with both users and individuals more familiar with utilities would allow a better understanding and would provide insight that would help with moving forward to a decision.

HM Stotts agrees that with such a short season, the cost of water and sewage in the area might not be beneficial overall. He also mentions how working with Moonlight Springs has been successful with the larger vessels for sewage pump-outs.

C. M Johnson points out that this would be a great example of a private industry working together with the port to meet those needs.

PD Baker agrees but says that this is only the case for the larger vessels and adds that it might not be as profitable for the smaller port users. She thinks that the port could fill that gap, at least for the pump out. She has been discussing potential project scope and costs with the City Engineer to set up a fueling and pump-out station on the south wall. As for showers and laundry, it is hard to justify a unit that sits unused in the winter. Additionally, there has been discussion at developing a method for tapping into the existing lights for shore power. She believes there is potential to build off of that if we can find an affordable mechanism for metering usage.

HM Stotts adds that when the lights were installed, they went with the larger sized conduit so that there would be an option to pull from there in the future.

PD Baker adds that there was talk of putting pedestals at the foot of the lights, but that was postponed as an option for the future based on limited grant funding for the lighting project.

HM Stotts also adds that in some places there are unique plugs in place to monitor and meter usage.

Chairman West asks if that would require a buy in from the utilities.

Both **PD Baker** and **HM Stotts** reply affirmatively.

C. M Johnson changes gears a bit and asks if the cost for the Dead Man project was still unknown.

PD Baker responds that we would need to ask one of the engineering companies for a proposal of costs. She adds that they could ask for proposals on a couple projects, and then evaluate what to ask for in terms of budgeting costs.

Chairman West brings up a recent discussion he had with the harbor dredger about extending the beach area.

PD Baker says that she isn't sure the Corps would approve that. She said he could ask but not sure if it would work out for a few reasons.

C. Cox asks to have **HM Stotts** talk more about the bigger vessels that want to sit on beach space.

HM Stotts said that nothing is concrete, just that **Pomrenke** had ask about hauling and storing a dredge over on Lulu beach. He mentions that there have been other dredgers who have expressed interest in storing larger vessels somewhere on port property as well. He adds that next year they are expecting to have another jack up rig on port property as well.

C. Cox follows up with asking about **Phoenix Marines** plans.

HM Stotts explains that there is one jack up that has been converted due to some damages.

C. Cox continues that he spoke to **John Keeley**, owner of **Phoenix**, when the discussion of the Dead Man project first came up.

HM Stotts responds saying that he believes that they are talking about leasing one of the larger rigs but hasn't heard anything since but is equally as curious about how what the space issue will look out in the future.

PD Baker adds that she has talked to the engineers in regards to ensuring that whatever the design ends up looking like is structurally sound but we'd ultimately have to spend operating funds to achieve concept design and ROM costs.

C. M Johnson asks if it would be of any use for the **NSSP** boats they are keeping here instead of moving to **Seward**. He adds that it could be an additional source of revenue.

PD Baker agrees and says we will look into it. Furthermore, she suggests the commission ponder on what was discussed and perhaps action can be taken at the next meeting.

C. Alvanna-Stimpfle suggests that a work session is scheduled due to the amount of information and proposed projects on the table.

PD Baker offers to provide some suggestions. She states that we could get a proposal on what it would take to complete the task, concept designs and the costs associated with the Dead Man project. At the same time, we could continue to pursue waste removal pump out costs. Both could be brought to a work session and further discussed. She adds that some money will have to be spent to move forward.

C. Alvanna-Stimpfle states that these needs are not going to go away and action needs to be taken to move forward.

Chairman West asks if it would be possible to ask for the public's input on what they want and need at the port.

PD Baker states we can advertise the work session for users and non-user's alike and agrees that although it is hard to get people to participate sometimes, that the public is always welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

C. Lean no comments.

C. D Johnson no comments

C. Cox no comments

C. Alvanna-Stimpfle says that she thought the joint Congressional letter was great, especially in regards to moving forward with the Arctic Deep Draft Port study. It sends a strong signal to the federal government that our state is behind our city in terms of bringing all of the hard work to fruition. She thanked everyone for their hard work.

C. Sloan no comments

C. M. Johnson mentions that Dave Cunningham, who has equipment here at the port, expressed his appreciation for the port office staff and Harbormaster Stotts.

Chairman West no comments

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting: September 15th, 2016 at 6:00 PM. A work session will precede the regular meeting at 5:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. M Johnson and seconded by C Cox that the meeting be adjourned.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Port Commission adjourned at 7:01 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 15th day of September, 2016.

ATTEST:



Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle, Secretary

for Megan



Jim West Jr., Chairman