

Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 6:00PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

Port and Harbors Commission Members:

Josh Arnold, Melissa Greenhalgh, Dave Gordon,
Michael Nurco, Brendan Jones,
Matthew Hunter: Assembly Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nurco called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Michael Nurco, Melissa Greenhalgh, Josh Arnold, Dave Gordon, Brendan Jones
Assembly Liaison: Matthew Hunter

Staff: Harbormaster Stan Eliason, Deputy Harbormaster Chuck Hackett, Office Manager Kristi Jones, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer, Jay Sweeney

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

IV. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M – Arnold/S – Jones moved to approve the February 8, 2017 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. REPORTS

1.) Harbormaster – Stan Eliason, Harbormaster, let the commission know that the Harbor staff was prepping the transient moorage for the arrival of Sac-Roe Herring vessels to arrive this week, and into the next week. Harbormaster Eliason told the commission that the F/V VALID, that caught on fire, back in December 8, 2016, would be auctioned off Friday, March 10th, 2017. Harbormaster Eliason stated that he did not expect much interest in the vessel. Harbormaster Eliason let the commission know that a National Marine Fisheries employee from the protected resource division in Juneau, would be speaking to the Assembly about seal lion behaviors.

1) City Staff –
None.

2) Chair –
None.

- 3) Assembly Liaison – Mayor Matthew Hunter informed the commission that the assembly was currently speaking about electric rates, and that the harbors could expect to see about a 15% increase in electric rates in the near future.
- 4) Other (s) - None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2) Sitka Harbor Fiscal Plan (moorage rates) – Jay Sweeney, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer provided the commission with a financial status report of the Harbor Fund for 2017, as well as speaking about the long-term fiscal plan. He explained that the Harbor Fund was doing very well and currently ahead of projected for 2017. CFAO Sweeney, explained that raw fish tax check for 2017, could be less than previous years, which would affect the overall budget. CFAO Sweeney explained to the Commission that the harbor master plan has a built in perception of matching fund grants from the State of Alaska for the next 30 years. CFAO Sweeney ended his report, with a 6% increase recommendation for the next fiscal year.

1.) Baranof Warm Springs Infrastructure Management Plan and Rates

Harbormaster Eliason introduced John Herchenrider, who had been the long time winter caretaker at Baranof Warm Springs. Mr. Herchenrider explained to the Commission that he felt it would not be financially the best scenario for the City of Sitka to provide a summer caretaker. He thought that an Iron Ranger, would be the best and easiest way to collect transient moorage. Mr. Herchenrider, gave the Commission an overview of how busy Baranof Warm Springs dock could be in the summer. The Commission chose to table the issue and place the subject on the next month's agenda. Harbor staff was asked to provide more information from outside sources of the overall scope of the use and gather more information for the next meeting.

2.) Animal Waste in the Harbors

Chair Michael Nurco spoke about how the animal waste at times, could be bad at Eliason Harbor. He asked Harbor staff, if they had an ideas on how to attack the issue better. Harbormaster Eliason, explained to the Commission that it has been a long battle with owner's to be more responsible with their pet's waste. Harbormaster Eliason explained that all harbors had pet waste bags. Deputy Harbormaster, Hackett explained that the Harbors were in the process of replacing all bulletin boards throughout the harbor system. Once this was done, staff would place new signs that address this issue more aggressively.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.) Agenda items for the next regular meeting of Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Agenda Items:

- 1.) Baranof Warm Springs Infrastructure Management Rates
- 2.) Sitka Moorage Rates

XI. ADJOURNMENT

M – Chair Nurco/S – Arnold made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

Attest:
Chuck Hackett, Deputy Harbormaster