
Sitka Port and Harbors Commission

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 6:00PM

Sealing Cove Business Center

Port and Harbors Commission Members: Kevin Knox, Josh Arnold, Mary Ann Peterson, Melissa Greenhalgh, Eric Skousen, Michael Nurco, Brendan Jones
Matt Hunter (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Knox called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Kevin Knox, Vice Chair Josh Arnold, Mary Ann Peterson, Melissa Greenhalgh, Eric Skousen

Absent: Michael Nurco (excused), Brendan Jones (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Matthew Hunter

Staff: Harbormaster Stan Eliason, Deputy Harbormaster Chuck Hackett, Chief Finance and Administrative Office Jay Sweeney, Municipal Attorney Robin Schmid and Administrative Coordinator Renee Wheat

III. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Carl Peterson asked the Commission to post the agenda at the harbors prior to each meeting.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M - Skousen/S - Peterson moved to approve the March 9, 2016 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. REPORTS

- 1) Harbormaster - Harbormaster Eliason relayed most of the transient float may open as soon as Friday, April 15, 16. There were a few items to complete and the construction company would be due back in mid-May. He conveyed there was a very bothersome sea lion in the harbor system. He had worked with the State to resolve the issue.
- 2) City Staff - CFAO Sweeney gave an overview of the Harbor System financial analysis as of, and for the six-month period ending December 2015.
- 3) Chair - None.
- 4) Other(s) - Vice Chair Arnold asked where the floats from the Bel-Air Dock had been disposed. Harbormaster Eliason relayed the contractor took possession and this was responsible to dispose of them. He relayed he was unable to discuss it further due to potential legalities with the construction contract.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) Harbor Rate Increase

CFAO Sweeney conveyed the need for a rate increase due to failing infrastructure along with uncertain future of grants from the State. He recommended to increase rates based on class of vessel rather than focusing on resident and non-resident rates. He relayed he would need to

review his recommendation with the Municipal Attorney. He conveyed Municipal Administrator recommended a 6.2% increase in Harbor Rates. Chair Knox reviewed the rate percents increases discussed from the previous meeting.

M – Peterson/S by way of discussion–moved for a 6.2% Harbor rate increase and review in one year.

Discussion occurred regarding reviewing the rate increase in October 2016. Liason Hunter relayed the Assembly is able to increase and decrease Harbor Rates with a Resolution that would come into effect within 30 days. Chair Knox pointed out Harbor Fund monies came from users and fish tax. Vice Chair Arnold came forward to relay commercial fisherman were unable to handle an increase due to the low price received for salmon. Municipal Attorney Schmid relayed it is possible to separate the commercial fisherman due to their role in the betterment and health of the community. It was agreed to revisit separating commercial fisherman rates at a future meeting.

M – Knox/S Skousen–moved to amend the motion to reflect the Port and Harbors Commission recommends to the Assembly to implement a 6.2% Harbor rate increase for FY2017 to be revisited annually but not to exceed an increase beyond five years without additional funding being made available from General Funds or other sources.

Discussion occurred to clarify that the Commission was requesting the Assembly to increase rates by 6.2% every year for five years. Vice Chair Arnold and Liason Hunter conveyed to keep it simple with a reminder to review what the Assembly implemented.

M – Arnold/S Skousen–moved to amend the motion to reflect the Port and Harbors Commission recommends to the Assembly a 6.2% rate increase for FY2017. Roll call vote as follows: Knox-Yes, Arnold-No, Peterson-Yes, Greenlagh-Yes, Skousen-Yes. Vote 4-1. Motion passed.

2) Seaplane Base Enterprise Fund / Sub Fund

CFAO Sweeney stated the Seaplane Base Enterprise would not have a realistic chance of making a profit. It would require a yearly subsidy from the General Fund. He relayed a Sub Fund is possible within the Harbor Fund.

3) Resolution

a. Grand Bargain Harbor Fund Support

Chair Knox relayed a motion was passed in the March meeting and no resolution was needed.

b. State Fish Tax allocation

Chair Knox relayed a motion was passed in the March meeting and no resolution was needed.

c. Waitlist Resolution

M – Arnold/S Knox–moved to accept the draft language as indicated in SGC 13.08 reserve mooring stalls.

The Commission and Municipal Attorney Schmid reviewed and discussed the Waitlist Ordinance that was previously drafted with the CBS Legal Department. Agreement was reached to add “the” after “rate” and strike “This one hundred dollar” in line 36. Also to add “the applicant” following “before” and strike “through that entity” in line 38.

M - Arnold/S Peterson--moved to accept the draft language as indicated in SGC 13.08 reserve mooring stalls as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Electric Meter rate change

Chair Knox relayed a motion was passed in the March meeting and no resolution was needed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting would be held May 11, 2016. Concensus was reached to discuss Commission goals.

X. ADJOURNMENT

M - Arnold. Seeing no objection the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:38PM.

Attest:
Renee Wheat, Administrative Coordinator