

Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 6:00PM
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Port and Harbors Commission Members:

Josh Arnold, Melissa Greenhalgh, Dave Gordon,
Michael Nurco, Brendan Jones,
Matt Hunter (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nurco called the meeting to order at approximately 6:04PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Michael Nurco, Melissa Greenhalgh, Brendan Jones, Josh Arnold, Dave Gordon
Assembly Liaison: Matthew Hunter (present)
Staff: Harbormaster Stan Eliason, Office Manager Kristi Jones,

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

IV. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

John Herchenrider – Resident of Baranof Warm Springs and Caretaker of the dock for the last 13 years, John stated that he has a 40'ft permanent stall in Sitka, when he leaves Sitka they put a transient boat in his stall, he felt that charging \$30.00 a day to use the Baranof Warm Spring(BWS) dock was excessive. He suggested Sitka homeowners not be charged to use the BWS dock..

Mark Young – Mark stated that he currently has three stalls in Sitka and property in both Sitka and BWS. He echoed John's suggestion to have no charge for Sitka Homeowners to use the BWS dock..

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M – Arnold/S – Greenhalgh moved to approve the October 12, 2016 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. REPORTS

- 1) Harbormaster – Harbormaster Eliason, welcomed Dave Gordon to the commission. Harbormaster Eliason commented that Gordon had spent a lot of time with Fish and Game and was also a local pilot. Eliason reported that he had a work session the previous week with the Planning Commission regarding short term rentals in the harbors. The work session did come to a conclusion that they would move forward with certain restrictions.

Eliason stated that the last snowfall did not result in any sunk boats, however lower temperatures would occasionally result in plumbing issues. He stated that normally they had some split hose bibs.

2) City Staff – None.

3) Chair – None.

4) Assembly Liaison - Mayor Hunter reported that the Assembly had a first reading of an ordinance that would exempt vessels and small aircraft from tax. This would result in a loss of \$130,000 to the harbors. Mayor Hunter explained that the Assessor's office would be concentrating more of their time to deal with real property taxes. Hunter explained that he felt there was enough support on the Assembly to create a line item to fund the harbors from the property tax revenue at an equal amount. Mayor Hunter let the Commission know that the second reading on this issue would be at the December 22nd Assembly meeting.

5) Other (s) - None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1) Winter moorage rates for large vessels (define months)

Harbormaster Eliason explained to the commission that there was interest from possibly two 140'ft tenders to winter in Sitka. Eliason explained to the commission that these vessels are too large to moor anywhere, but the outside of transient at Eliason Harbor. Eliason stated, the reason that he would like to define the months, is that he does not want boats to be hanging out at the new transient dock throughout the summer, taking up valuable space. He stated, he would like the new float to be active.

Arnold, asked if it would make Harbor billing easier if the commission defined October through December as the 1st quarter and January through March as the 2nd quarter?

Office Manager Jones said, yes, the vessels would be allowed the rate in the winter months, once the date is up, they would pay a transient rate if they wanted to stay past the winter seasonal time.

Brendon Jones, asked Harbormaster Eliason, if his goal was to try attract these tenders during the winter as time goes on. Harbormaster Eliason commented, that he would like to see the whole outside face of the new facility full of sac-roe tenders. The tenders would start their year in Sitka and hopefully come back in September.

Josh Arnold made a motion that the months be defined as October 1 through March 31.

M – Arnold/ S – Jones moved to approve large vessel winter storage months. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Resolution in support of the State of Alaska adopting changes to National Electrical Code.

Harbormaster Eliason informed the commission that he was looking for sponsors from the commission, in turn it would go to the assembly, and then on to the legislature.

Mayor Hunter explained that the commission would need to ask staff to draft a resolution from the testimony from Bruce Hess from the meeting in October.

Chair Nurco directed staff to draft a resolution to that order for the next commission meeting.

3) **Proposed regulation changes for old boats in the harbors sent to Governor Walker.**

Chair Nurco spoke to commission regarding other states down south that had already forced owners to provide insurance if they wanted to tie to their docks. Harbormaster Eliason explained that Juneau Harbors had started to require tenants to show proof of insurance, if the tenant was not able to do this, the Juneau Harbors would charge an extra fee that would go into a sinking fund.

Harbormaster Eliason, informed the commission that at the state legislative level they are speaking about requiring all vessels over 35 feet to provide proof of insurance.

Matt Donohue, vessel owner asked how would the 35 feet be judged and some more details of the definition would need to be explained.

Chair Nurco said that he would look into how the Seafood Producer's Cooperative deals with their insurance pool. Harbormaster Eliason said that he would speak to the Harbormaster in Juneau and provide the verbiage of how the municipality applies the non-insurance rates.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting would be held Wednesday, January 11th, 2016 at 6:00pm.

Agenda Items: Proposed Regulation Changes with Juneau Harbor Department verbiage and Moorage Rates discussion

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objection the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:08pm

Attest:
Chuck Hackett, Deputy Harbormaster