
City of Bethel, Alaska
Port Commission Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2002

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel Port Commission was held on May 20, 2002, in the Port office in Bethel, Alaska.

Vice Chairman DeSousa called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the commission, the following were present:

Buster Richardson	Allen DeSousa
Brandon Leary	Walter Suomela
Richard Yager	Tundy Rodgers

Also in attendance were: Howard Elliott Port Director & Joanne Galliard, Admin Assistant

M/M Rodgers to approve minutes of April 15, 2002 meeting as is, 2nd by Yager voice vote passed unanimously.

M/M: Yager to approve agenda as presented 2nd by Suomela, voice vote passed unanimously.

Director's REPORT:

Mr. Elliott said there was some concern about the seawall up river from the fish plant. He had done soundings and the toe was good, the depth from the top of the seawall pipe varied from 14 to 16 feet. Floats would be installed in the small boat harbor as soon as the water dropped enough the cables could be reached.

He plans on starting the repair of the Seawall at the lower end of Mission Road. This area was damaged during breakup, there has been water behind the pilings and ice on top of them, and the safety fence is down in places and must be repaired.

Mr. Elliott said Port Attendants applicants had been interviewed and they will start working by Wednesday.

Ms. Galliard added the money approved in last years budget modification for "A/B" rock & gravel have been encumbered since the RFP for this rock was not let out in February as had been requested. This will allow us to purchase the rock and gravel and have it paid from the 2002 budget.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Rodgers said the water sewer project might be delayed as some of the pipe was dropped in Seattle. He said he was glad to see the breakup did not cause a flood. He had also heard there was a fire in Kalskag and there were no firefighters left in Alaska.

Welcomed Mr. Elliott back for the season.

Said he felt the commission would welcome any outside information or suggestions and community involvement.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

Richardson; Was glad to see the life rings out so early, and said he had heard comments that most people were glad the crowd control fence was up, but there were some comments that people should be able to get to seawall if they want. Commented about the area by the fish plant access road and its status.

Suomela: Nothing to say at this time.

Rodgers: Asked we keep an eye on the sinking area upriver from the fish plant this summer to make sure there are no additional problems.

Leary: Welcomed Howard and Joanne back.
Said 1st mainline freight barge was due in Monday.
Northland has leased the crane again this summer so it will be on the dock this summer.
Says he has been really busy and he is running about 2 weeks behind.

Yager: Welcome Howard with his expertise and Joanne back.

DeSousa: No comment

There were no committee reports and No people to be heard.

Special Discussion Item:

Brown Slough new seawall area.

Howard reported he had been to look at Darrell Jones area (in reference to a letter from Mr. Jones) Mr. Jones was concerned about tugs and barges parked along the seawall area on the east side and did not want the seawall brought any further toward Brown Slough bridge. Commissioners comments were that by putting up the seawall it would make his property more secure against washouts, therefor more valuable and the plan was not to put tugs and barges on that side of the slough, but this option must be kept open. Howard said he had checked this property and there was only a small amount of buildings and some vans that would need to be moved during the construction process. Yager felt Jones was concerned about customers loosing access to his property via an access trail on property adjacent to his. DeSousa reiterated he has talked to Jones and this is a concern of as his. Due to increased competition Mr. Jones is greatly concern about loosing the current access his customers have. Mr. Leary says he is in a position to watch and there are not a large number of people who use this access, when the water is low they can not use this access anyway. Discussion on alternatives Jones could use were to put in stairs and/or could rent one of the old steel floats from the city to use as a landing, or he could to deliver goods to his customers in the small boat harbor. Mr Leary says we have to keep the best interest of all persons in our community and the surrounding villages at the forefront, not just one person's needs. He feels if we sat down with Mr. Jones maybe we could come to an understanding. It was questioned why Mr. Jones did not come to Bethel to attend this meeting if he was this concerned. DeSousa also wanted to know when the actual plans will be available for review?

M/M: Richardson to write a letter to Mr. Jones inviting him to come to a Port Commission Meeting 2nd by Yager. Discussion on height of seawall pilings, was it just a continuation of the existing seawall at the same height. Information we have from the Corps indicated this.

Richardson requested an amendment to the motion to include the possibility of renting him one of our old Floats or putting in his own dock. Also that we include the portion of the letter from the seawall explaining what will be done, 2nd by Yager. Voice vote Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **YKHC KIDS DON'T FLOAT-** No Representative from YKHC to present this program. Item died due to lack of interest.
- B. **Crowley Crane –** Postponed until next meeting, When more information from Crowley will be available.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Terrorism Reports** – Discussion on Maritime Alert Letter on Terrorism – discussion on probability of Bethel being a target for terrorism the city has a disaster plan already in place. There is also a plan in place to notify the Coast Guard of any foreign vessels that come to Bethel.
- B. **Fishing Off Dock & City Liability** – Suggestion that generic 'NO FISHING' signs be posted along the seawall where vessels tie up and at gate entrance to city dock. These signs need to be in both English and Yupik. This is in City Ordinance 14.04.060 saying there is no fishing from June 1 thru August 31. Suggestion that the months of May, September and October be added.

M/M by Leary to approach City Council to amend dates for Safety concerns 2nd by Richardson, all in favor.

- C. **Port Budget** – Concerns about 2003 Port budget – Per Galliard, to help alleviate some of the problems, the unused rock and gravel money allowed in the 2002 budget has been encumbered so these purchases can be made on the 2002 budget. These purchases are eminent, this will purchase approximately 2,000 cubic yards of rock. Question about the payment on the Wheel loader payment, this was one purchased by the Dock for Road maintenance in return we received the 950 loader which we needed. The budget work session with the City Council seemed to go well. Port had made some modifications in both income and expenses before presenting the budget to the council; the council seemed to accept the proposed budget. The current balance of the seawall maintenance fund is \$1,431,773 per DeSousa, a discussion ensued as to the use of these funds, what items of port expense are seawall maintenance and can be paid from the fund. This is spelled out in the Corps of Engineers "River Bank Stabilization" booklet. M/M by Yager, 2nd by Richardson to invite the Finance Director to the next Port Commission meeting, for the purpose of discussing the method of accounting for Seawall Maintenance money. Discussion about using some of the money to increase the height of the seawall pipe at the lower end of mission road so it is the same height as the rest of the seawall, this would eliminate the continual necessity of filling in behind this seawall due to washouts.
- D. **Capital Expenses Budget items** - Capital Funds, the request was changed from 1 full size 4 wheel drive truck to 2ea 4 wheel drive mini trucks.
- E. **Flat Fee for Equipment used with Stevedoring Permits** – Item withdrawn
- F. **Fish Tender Boat Disposition** – Discussion on putting Liens on boats whose owners have not paid last seasons accounts in full. Per Galliard, the business in question has been turned over to the city attorney for collection.
- G. **Guard Rail & Fencing by Lions Club Seawall** – Due to the amount of traffic by motor bikes, 4 wheelers and 4 wheel drive trucks on the bank along the river there is a considerable amount of damage causing serious erosion. Motorized vehicles are currently using this as a hill climbing area; it is not designated as such. There was a discussion on how best to stop off road vehicular traffic. How cost effective would it be to put up guard rails or a 4-foot chain link fence to stop all but foot traffic along seawall. If motorized traffic could be stopped from tearing up the hydroseed and causing erosion, would the cost of a barrier fence be less than having to repair serious erosion each year?

Discussion also ensued as to the use of this area by pedestrian traffic and for family recreation, i.e.: picnics or to play outdoor games, fly kites or walking trails. Question was raised if Parks & Recreation Dept was still looking at getting involved in the use of this area, if so in what manner? Port commissioners it would be important to put certain stipulations on the use of this area.

- A. No Overnight Camping due to the liability exposure to the City of Bethel
- B. No Vehicles – Foot traffic only.
- C. Some sort of barrier to keep children from climbing on the rocks along the edge of the river as this is very dangerous and would put the City in a situation where they could possible be help liable for accidents.

Even with these stipulations there are times when access would need to be denied to allow hydroseed to grow.

M/M by Richardson to have a work session across from the Lions Club on Wed 5/22 at 7PM so commissioners could look at and the discuss area, 2nd by Yager, all in favor.

H. Method for Filing Boat float trip plans. – This service is currently provided by the Coast Guard office in Anchorage, however due to distance should we have the necessary forms available at the port office? Persons wishing to file a boat trip plan would pick up the forms at the port office then send the completed forms to the Coast Guard office in Anchorage. It was suggested we also bring this issue up to the YKHC Safety Office, Suomela volunteered to do so, as he will be in contact with them on another issue, he will also talk to Search & Rescue to see if they are interested in helping with this.

M/M by Richardson to adjourn, 2nd by Suomela, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan DeSousa", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vice Chairman DeSousa