
City of Bethel, Alaska

Port Commission Minutes

Date 05/21/07

Regular Meeting

City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Port Commission was held on 5/21/07 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Brandon Leary called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission did have a quorum, the following members were present:

Brandon Leary
Alan Murphy
Harry Faulkner, Jr.
Allen DeSousa

Also in attendance were the following:

Peter Williams
Kim Shelden
Sharon Sigmon, City Attorney

Absent: Mary Kenick
Greg Roczicka
Clair Grifka

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Harry Faulkner, Jr. stated that he is attempting to start a fueling business in Bethel. Part of this business is providing gasoline for the small boat traffic on the river. He wanted to inform the Port Commission of his idea. Harry passed out a plan set for everyone to look at explaining the details.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the April 16, 2007 regular meeting

MOVED BY:	Alan Murphy	Approval of the April 16, 2007 minutes
SECONDED BY:	Harry Faulkner	
VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Allen DeSousa	To approve the agenda, as amended
SECONDED BY:	Alan Murphy	
VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously	

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The small boat harbor and beach were cleaned up of logs and miscellaneous debris. A stray boat was removed from the slough. Consolidated gear from various storage areas over the winter and took inventory. Discussion of hiring port attendants was discussed. Currently the Port can only afford one port attendant position for the season. This port attendant would work Wednesday through Sunday from 4 p.m. until 12 a.m. This could possibly change after city council's June 26th meeting. The two cent fuel thru put increase fee agenda item has been tabled until this date.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Brandon said the low water has been good timing with the small boat harbor and that perhaps it will help the cause. Brandon said they should have barges start showing up this weekend.

COUNCIL REP'S COMMENTS

Mary Kenick was not present.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Harry Faulkner, Jr. asked Peter when the floats would be out. Peter said three days before the 1st of June, the official opening day of the small boat harbor. Harry also asked what Peter had for a crew to help. Peter replied three plus himself. He also stated that he could get help from Public Works if need be.

Allen DeSousa asked for an update on the new port director. Kim replied that the City has made an offer to Lee Foley. He will be starting between June 4th and June 8th.

Alan Murphy said he bought his permit and renewed his float space.

OLD BUSINESS

A) None

NEW BUSINESS

B) Kuskokwim Ice Roads

Funding of the ice road for the 2007/2008 season was discussed. Sharon Sigmon, the city attorney explained that The Department of Transportation will no longer fund the ice road because Bethel is a very litigious area and the liability will flow to the person who is paying for this to be done.

Sharon stressed that if the money flow comes from the city or the port, somebody is going to find a way to hook them into that liability. Requiring a two million dollar insurance coverage policy from any company that was going to plow the ice road was discussed. Sharon stressed that any connection to the city of Bethel period is a concern for liability. An option could be to promote it as river safety. The city could hire a "river safety" company promoting river safety. They could also find some non profit or some organization to take some money for river safety soliciting from them. Also discussed were the benefits of having the ice road and how the local businesses would profit; AC, Swanson's, fuel companies, etc.

A) Storage Fees and Charges

Discussion of rate changes between storage for the summer months and the winter months was discussed. Peter was concerned about how much more the fees increased between these months, as the summer rates are significantly higher. Peter then gave some verbal examples of the difference between the summer daily rates and the winter monthly rates. The port commission concluded that the reasoning behind the higher summer rates when put together for the tariff was to keep stuff moving off the dock and that's why the port went to a higher daily summer fee. The whole intention is not to let the dock become a storage facility. The first 15 days is free time. Day 16-30 is then charged at the monthly rate. After day 30 the daily summer rate is applied.

DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 18, 2007

Respectfully Submitted:



Brandon Leary, Chairman

APPROVED THIS 28 day of December 2007.

ATTEST: _____