
City of Bethel, Alaska

PORT COMMISSION MEETING

September 22, 2003

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Port Commission was held on September 22, 2003, at 7:35 p.m. at the City dock office.

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

ROLL CALL

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

DeSousa
Rodgers

Leary
Chris

Richardson arrived 7:34 Pm

Excused absence(s): Sevren

unexcused absence(s): none

Also in attendance were the following:

Howard Elliott, Port Director
Bob Herron, Bethel City Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Leary	To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 18, 2003 meeting. Special Meeting August 7, 2003 & April 21, 2003, with changes requested by commission.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To approve the agenda.
	Richardson	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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DIRECTORS REPORT:

Bi weekly reports to City Manager provided, in addition Mr. Elliott advised the commission that we have had to put 50 yards of rock in one hole and 60 yards of rock in another holes, between stations 98 & 101. These are in front of the Crow property. Care was made to be sure the rock was dumped out far enough not to cause problems with vessels docking in this are.

Mr. Elliott also requested the commission consider changing one of the port attendant positions into a permanent position as we have one attendant who has worked several years for the port and does the winter security; he also works during the winter for other departments in the city. Per Mr. Herron, this could be made a combined position between departments to make a permanent position. By having one attendant that returns each year and knows the job and is a valuable asset to the port.

Mr. Herron asked if he could make some comments to the management report. Bethel Utilities has applied for after the fact permit for the power line that spans the entrance to the small boat harbor. He feels the commission may want make a recommendation to the Corps of Engineers. Several years ago when Bethel Utilities put in this line they did not realize the entrance was considered a nagativable water way and did not apply for the proper permits. The current utility line is approximately 30' above the high tide line.

A discussion among the commission members on the pro's and con's of making a recommendation to the Corps of Engineers to approve the after the fact permit ensued.

Other ways to solve the problem, such as having BUC put in taller (60') poles or asking the sail boat to lower the mast when entering and exiting the small boat harbor. Since the mast is easily lowered and the owner transports the sail boat on a regular basis with the mast lowered this should not be a problem. All commissioners seemed to be in concurrence the last thing the commission wanted was to see the household across the channel to lose its electric power.

RECOMMENDATION MOTION

MOVED BY:	Leary	Motion to send letter of support to the Corps of Engineers, RE: Bethel Utilities to get an after the fact permit.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	
Discussion on if we should include suggestion about adding a taller pole. Problems with taller poles and longer guide lines were discussed. There is a time period for public to request a hearing.		
VOTE ON MOTION	Passed 4 yes 1 no	

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

No regular council meeting since last month, special lunch meeting RE: the DOT rewriting of Stick program, unanimous agreement there are to be no changes since agreement was made.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- CHRIS: One comment, she would like to hear from Bethel Utilities on possibility of taller poles and would like to have a public hearing. She does not wish to see any interruption of service to Utility customers across the small boat harbor entrance channel.
- RODGERS: No Comment
- LEARY: Thanks Mr. Elliott for light plants, they have already come in handy. This time of year the water to some villages is low and is causing some problem in getting freight delivered. Mr. Leary will be leaving his current employment and will then be the tank farm manager for Crowley.
- RICHARDSON: Would like to see gravel put along the seawall from the old Elm fish plant to the city dock and along the area by the crow property once the sale is completed. Wanted to know status on cameras, in question was the one not working, it is because of vans stacked between camera and receiver; these vans will leave on the next freight barge.
- DeSOUSA: Would like to see cannery row graded.

OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM "A". CROW PROPERTY PURCHASE - Chris

Per Mr. Herron the 60 day window officially closed on 9/21/03, the next action is the appropriation of the money. Mr. DeSousa questioned the on possibility of using the retained earnings fund rather than the seawall maintenance fund. Mr. Herron explained the resolution wording of seawall maintenance fund, and City council power to decide where funds come from. General discussion among commission members on use of seawall maintenance funds to purchase of Crow property.

RECOMMENDATION MOTION

MOVED BY:	DeSousa	Motion to have the Council Representative to ask the City Council to take the funds to purchase the Crow Property from the retained earnings fund.
SECONDED BY:	Chris	

Asked for explanation of funds and why difference from Mr. Herron. continued discussion by commission

VOTE ON MOTION	Roll call vote requested by Mr. Rodgers	
	DeSousa	Yes
	Leary	No
	Rodgers	No
	Chris	No
	Richardson	No

VOTE ON MOTION	Fails 4 to 1
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Mr. Herron gave commission time frame for sale and delivery of property and tentative plan for clean up. He also asked the port & city think about what they wished to do with items left on property including the buildings. 90day deadline is Oct 20, 2003
 On this date city will remit funds and take possession of property and receive clear title.

**NEW BUSINESS:
 ITEM "A" YUKON FUEL SALE - Rodgers**

Discussion on how a on monopoly on fuel on the river will effect the cost of fuel in Bethel. This is in reference to the possibility that Crowley might purchase Yukon Fuel.

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To recommend to the Bethel City council a letter be sent to the Governor/Lieutenant Governor requesting the sale of Yukon Fuel to Crowley be looked into as this could result in a monopoly.
SECONDED BY:	Chris	

Discussion on ramifications of a possible monopoly and the concerns voiced by others continued. Mr. Herron, asked if people thought with 2 tank farms the price of fuel was going to drop drastically? Continued discussion of fuel price increases.

VOTE ON MOTION	Voice vote 4 yes, 1 abstain (Leary)
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MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To amend the above motion to read resolution by city council not letter.
SECONDED BY:	Chris	

Continued discussion.

VOTE ON MOTION	4 yes votes , 1 abstain
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Mr. Herron suggested for the next meeting the commission consider moving the office to the lot where the Crowley office was recently. Also Crowley will be providing the City with an appraisal on the property Crowley owns on the dock, which the City will be purchasing.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Richardson	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Leary	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 22 DAY OF SEPT 2003.

 C. S. Richardson, Chairman

 Joanne Galliard, Commission Secretary