

PAGE 1  
PORT COMMISSION MINUTES  
March 21, 1994

**CALL TO ORDER** Norm Silta called the regular Port Commission meeting of March 21, 1994 to order at 7:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** Present: Allen DeSousa, Allen Wintersteen, Buster Richardson Norm Silta Bill Bergen  
Absent: (excused) Grant Fairbanks  
(not excused) Manny Konig

**APPROVAL/MINUTES** There were no minutes available for the last meetings due to damaged tapes of the February 28, 1994 meeting.

**APPROVAL/AGENDA** M/M Richardson to add City ordinance 94-08 to Item B under new business and to approve agenda as amended 2nd by Wintersteen. Voice Vote. Motion passed unanimously.

**PORT DIRECTOR REPORT** Port Director report submitted to commission in writing. Port Director also reported on the Stevedoring Permit Fee increase. Administration has put proposal together for Commission review.

**COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS** Richardson was interested in moving the billing from the dock to finance.  
Desousa was interested in setting up another committee meeting on the dock takeover. A meeting was scheduled for March 28 7:00 p.m at the dock.

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE** Wintersteen reported on the Coast Guard Letter regarding derelict vessels. He also reported on the proposal to use the docks' split of the fish tax money to fund Police officer positions.

**COMMITTEE REPORT** DeSousa gave a brief report on the take-over of the dock from the state.

**PEOPLE TO BE HEARD** None

**OLD BUSINESS** Item A: Stevedoring Permit Fee Increase Proposal was submitted to Commission from Administration. Concerns were focused on maintenance, improvements, safety and liability on the dock. It was talked about limiting the number of permits issued to users.

After much discussion, M/M by Richardson 2nd. by Bergen to recommend to Council to increase the stevedoring permit fee from \$500.00 to \$3,000.00 and to look later on how to charge a daily fee. Roll Call Vote. 4 yes 1 no. Wintersteen voted against proposal because he would like to see only one operator on the dock.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item A: Responsibility for collection and guarantee for charge.**

Greydanus reported his concern about fishing companies accruing charges and taking all winter to pay them. The dock does receive interest on unpaid debt but Greydanus is worried that one of the fishing companies could go bankrupt in 94 with the projected weak run of fish. The City Council had to write off over \$30,000.00 in uncollectible debt from Kemp-Paulucci a few years ago. Greydanus proposed that fishing companies estimate what they will owe the Port for the Month or Season and pay a 125% deposit of that amount up front before they can proceed with operations. Greydanus felt these companies could borrow money from their respective banks rather than the Port bank of Bethel. We could refund these companies at the end of the year if they had money due back from us. This would ensure that the City of Bethel does not get burned again like with the Kemp case. After much discussion on the Pros and cons of this issue, M/M by Bergen 2nd by Wintersteen to find a legal determination on whether you can put a lien on assets in advance of using facilities prior to operating each year. Voice Vote. Motion Carried unanimously.

**Item B: Funding Police positions Partly with the docks split of the fish tax.**

Desousa reported that he made a motion at the Chamber of Commerce Meeting to support increasing the number of Police officer positions. He said that at no time was he aware that funding for these positions would come partly from the raw fish tax. Allen indicated that had he

Page 3  
P.C. Minutes  
March 21, 1994

known this, he would not have supported it. Greydanus reported that his concern was that this item was not on the posted Finance Committee agenda. It was added at the meeting. Therefore no one from the Public was afforded the opportunity to comment at the finance level because no one knew about it. Greydanus felt that it wouldn't be a bad idea to fund these positions using the fish tax money if a portion of the policemen's time was dedicated to patrolling the Port. This was not presented in the proposal. Greydanus felt that if any commission or committee votes on a monetary issue that will affect any one department, that this item should be publicly noticed and not added to the agenda at the time of the meeting. After further discussion, M/M by Silta 2nd by Silta to recommend to City Council to table Ordinance 94-08 until a joint Finance and Port commission meeting take place to discuss the taking of the raw fish tax from the Dock fund and depositing it in the General Fund. Voice Vote. Motion Carried unanimously.

M/M by Bergen, 2nd by Richardson to adjourn meeting.  
Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

9:55 P.M.