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City of Bethel, Alaska  
Port Commission Meeting Minutes

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May 19, 2003

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Bethel Port Commission was held on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2003, in the Port office in Bethel, Alaska.

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Buster Richardson

Tundy Rodgers

Allen DeSousa

Jeff Severin

Absent was Yager.

Also in attendance were: Joanne Galliard, Admin Assistant & past commissioner Walter Soumela.

M/M DeSousa to postpone approval of April 21, minutes to allow Mr. Strahan to correct the minutes to reflect the dissatisfaction voiced by the commission over Mr. Herron's distribution of the March Port Commission minutes prior to their being approved. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rodgers, passed unanimous voice vote.

M/M: Rodgers to approve agenda as presented 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leary, voice vote passed unanimously.

**People to be Heard:**

Mr. Suomela made an apology for not notifying the commission prior to his long absence. He was out of Bethel for the winter. He just returned and felt he should resign if he was still on the commission as he anticipated doing a lot of traveling this summer and did not think he would be able to make all the meetings. The commission accepted his apology and resignation. Mr. Rodgers stated he felt a Certificate of Appreciation should be made for Mr. Suomela. The commission approved Mr. Rodgers suggestion.

**Director's REPORT:**

The calcium spreader has been ordered and we anticipate its delivery no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> Northland barge.

Additional sections have been ordered to build a sixth floating dock at the Small Boat Harbor. This new floating dock will be the same size as the current ones, however will be made from individual cubes, this should allow better less costly maintenance and replacement will be less expensive as is the initial purchase. These are of the type used by fish processors for docks for fish tenders and by many float plane operators.

The floating dock at the small boat harbor are being installed this week, renewal lease of Slip space is going pretty well, there are about 30 names on the waiting list.

There was a fire set on the seawall near the YKHC offices, it was put out but managed to burn a good section of the grass 1<sup>st</sup>. Money is being transferred from accounts with unused money for 2003 fiscal year to cover the cost of the dock sections purchase.

The RFP for the new port truck is out per finance and the light plant will be out soon.

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

**Rodgers:** Said the City Managers contract had been renewed by the council.

Mr. Rodgers wished to offer his condolences to the families of the deceased. He also congratulated the seniors on their graduation. Mr. Rodgers received his G.E.D. in 1997 and knows of several others who received their G.E.D.'s and did not have ceremony so he is working with the high school for these and other persons who have diplomas but did not participate in graduation exercises to have a graduation ceremony.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

Severin: No Comments

Leary: The mainline Northland barge is due in the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, they have told him it is the largest delivery they have ever made to Bethel. Mr. Leary is concerned about the low water level in the river. Also asked to continue with process to put a sign at the float plane area to advise boats they are to keep the area clear. Said he understands the houses left on the dock are due to be moved this week, he would like to see a change in the tariff to address storage fees on a long term basis for large items such as houses.

M/M Rodgers to suspend rules to request appropriate minutes reflect discussion on Light plants for the dock as this was a discussion on which action was taken this winter. 2<sup>nd</sup> by DeSousa, passed unanimous voice vote. Also what is status of RFP on said light plants?

DeSousa Asked about the status of the cameras, if they were working and when the ones at the small boat harbor would be installed. He was informed by Joanne, Guardian Security was expected on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to install the cameras at the small boat harbor and they usually did a courtesy check of any problems with the cameras on the dock. The warranty on all cameras has expired. Mr. DeSousa was interested in the answers to the previous meetings questions about the 2003 & 2004 budgets, and asks if the expenditures for the light plants would come from the 2003 budget.

Richardson Wanted to know if a notice to renew the leases at the small boat harbor has gone out, (it has). Mr. Richardson said he remembered when one of the marinas across the slough has to be notified they were not allowed to park their unsold boats in the parking area by the bridge; this was for loading and unloading and for the public to park in. It now appears the other marina is also using the area on the other side of the bridge for a storage and display area for their unsold boats. He wished to have the Port Director speak to the owner of both marinas about not putting their surplus boats on city property. As a lot of homes are now sporting rock in their yards, he ask if the Port Attendants would keep particular watch to make sure they are not coming from the City rock pile.

**THERE WERE NO COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Mr. Leary said he would drop the idea of changing the moorage rate to include any vessel owned and operated by the leasing company since he felt the other commissioners were not in favor of this. After some discussion about how to set a new rate and to limit the vessels that could use the moorage spot it was decided to have Joanne do a report addressing these issues, this report is due by the July meeting.

**M/M**

DeSousa to postpone further discussion until this information is available, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leary, passed unanimous voice vote.

- B. Delivery date of "B" rock from 2001 budget, this was covered in managers report; it is due in late July.
- C. Update on Crow Property – DeSousa – At this time the deadline for the Crows to sign the sale agreement has come and gone, the Crow's did not sign the agreement. A discussion ensued with consideration to the 60 days we had from their signing until the City's acceptance of the property. The commission was especially concerned with the contamination problem; the general feeling is to reject the property until cleaned up. However, the commission feels it is very important for the Port of Bethel to obtain this piece of property. The commission asked Mr. Rodgers to pass their thoughts on this property along to the City Council.
- D. Budget review 2004 fiscal year, the amount left on the 2003 fiscal year budget and what it is earmarked for. The commission also wanted a clarification on why the amount of insurance projected is so much higher than in the past. They also did not understand the answers to budget questions asked at the last meeting, and wanted responses on # 437 & 626 explained. (it appears the figures may be backward, i.e.: projected as actuals and actuals as projections. In regards to the high utility amount budgeted, there was discussion on why so high and if we could get a different kind of portable out house that would be more sanitary and easier to empty.

**M/M**

By DeSousa to direct the port to request a detailed description of the utilities received by the port on a monthly basis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rodgers – passed unanimous voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Front end loader (backhoe) to dredge Brown Slough & Small Boat Harbor - DeSousa

M/M DeSousa to postpone discussion on this item as the Port Director needs has the information and wishes to do a presentation on this item, 2<sup>nd</sup> Severin, passed unanimous voice vote.

- B. Capping off Seawall & removing loose covers – Yager

M/N Richardson to postpone this item as requested by Yager and he is absent at this time, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rodgers, passed unanimous voice vote.

M/M Rodgers to adjourn meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> by DeSousa passed unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chairman Richardson