

PORT COMMISSION MINUTES

May 23, 1994

CALL TO ORDER

Norm Silta called the regular Port Commission meeting of May 23, 1994 to order at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Norm Silta, Allen DeSousa, Allen Wintersteen, Buster Richardson, and Grant Fairbanks.

Absent: (not excused) Manny Konig. (Excused) Dr. Bergen.

Also Present: Port Director - Stuart Greydanus, City Manager - William Hunter, Crowley Marine Services - Jerry Galiart and Port Admin Assistant - Suzanna Maloy.

Enter at 8:00 p.m. - Ray and Kimo Thomas.

APPROVAL/MINUTES

M/M by Richardson, 2nd by Desousa to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 21, 1994 meeting. (Desousa did add that the minutes did appear to be incomplete and acknowledged as per Suzanna Maloy that the tapes were not complete in themselves.) Motion passed by acclamation.

APPROVAL/AGENDA

Desousa noted to delete the typo of old business which was on the agenda twice.

Motion

M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Richardson to add item A: "Port Staffing" under old business. Voice vote. Motion carried.

**PORT DIRECTOR
REPORT**

Greydanus reported that the Port collected \$29,000 from Coastal Villages Fisheries. (They still owe \$3,000).

Wintersteen inquired as to who was person spoken to at CVF.

Greydanus reported that he has been speaking to John Acre and the accountant at CVF. Greydanus also reported that the moorage for the 1994 season would be paid at the beginning of the season.

Motion

M/M by Desousa, 2nd by Richardson to accept Port Director's report. Voice vote. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Wintersteen reported that the following items would be heard at the next council meeting on May 24, 1994: The budget and the Howard Elliott issue. He also reported on a proclamation of safe boating. There was a big decrease in boating accidents from 1991 to 1992.

Wintersteen also commented on a letter that was in the Council packet from Bruce Perry regarding City Manager's comments that the dock was a "dump." Wintersteen's response to that remark was that he always thought the Port was good.

Wintersteen also addressed the remark that the City Manager made at a previous meeting stating that Stuart (the Port Director) was unprofessional. He questioned whether the City Manager (William Hunter) considered someone professional if they had a Ph.D, master's degree, years of experience or some other type of academia. He was unsure as to what Mr. Hunter considered professional.

Silta was unaware of what letter Wintersteen was referring to. Wintersteen read the letter in from Bruce Perry in its entirety.

Wintersteen stated that in the future statements by the City Manager regarding City employees should be substantiated.

Wintersteen also reported to the commission that Hal Jones, another City Councilman thinks the City should hire two police officers instead of two Port Attendants. Wintersteen said he would convey to Council that he thinks we should hire two Port Attendants. He agreed with Port Director in that attendants pay for themselves - dockage brings in about \$19,000 and the salary of two attendants is only \$18,000.

The general consensus of the commission was that we need more than a police officer in order to support the Port's interest. The small boat harbor services more than 300 boats and a lot more people.

Richardson stated that this entire issue is upsetting because we as the Port Commission make decisions, but the Council does not take them into account.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Desousa - stated that he was disappointed by Hunter's comments regarding the dock. He reiterated the point that Hunter has never been down to the dock during the unloading of a mainline barge. Also reiterated that the money from the Port is part of an enterprise fund not the general fund, therefore, the money should stay at the Port. The Port of Bethel is the best asset Bethel has. The comment that was made that Stuart was unprofessional is totally incorrect. "Stuart has done an excellent job, he gets the job done and everyone gets along with him."

As far as to the comment about the Port being a dump, "I think you owe everyone sitting here an apology. You are degrading us - which is a great disservice." Desousa stated that all these comments are very discouraging to all people associated with the dock.

In regards to the Port Director's term of service: He stated that the job used to be only 10 months, but then it was always brought before Council to extend it to 11 months; and on the twelfth month the Director took a vacation. It was always such a hassle getting it extended that they made it into a 12 month job.

The last item Desousa commented about was regarding the launching ramp in Anchorage Alaska. Said we should look into using the same material in order to help keep our dredging to a minimum.

Richardson - He commended Wintersteen on his report to Council regarding the stevedoring permits.

He also mentioned the fact that he has been a member of the Bethel community for more than 30 years and if he ever saw someone not working or doing something wrong, he would ask them directly - he found that this usually worked good. (This might be a possible suggestion for future policy)

Fairbanks - Stated we need to start looking at other resource storage areas. We need an area about the size of the dock in order to store lumber or gravel.

Silta - He had questions to ask the City Manager regarding

comments he had made recently concerning the Port. 1) "What exactly makes the dock a dump and a atrocity?" 2) What constitutes Stuart's being unprofessional? 3) 6 positions were proposed to City Council to be cut from the dock. How can all the different things be done at the Port, such as issuing stickers, dockages, etc. with only 2 employees?

He also informed the commission that after tonight he was regretfully resigning from the commission due to the fact that he was moving out of Bethel.

Wintersteen- He commented that the City Manager had been to Port Commission meetings about 3 - 4 times. Also stated that while Stuart went out of town William was acting Port Director.

He stated that 2 people had asked him what the Port Director does during the months of October and November. He suggested that for one week Stuart keep a record of what he does all day.

-Silta commented that it was almost analogous to when people questioned what firemen and EMTs do when they are not responding to a call; they have to justify their position which is unfortunate and inefficient.

- Fairbanks stated that with correspondence, working with the Coast Guard and Port Commission work (not to mention other things) the Port Director's job could in no way be done in 10 months.

COMMITTEE REPORT Desousa reported on Take over of the dock from the State. The State plans to renew its contract with the City of Bethel. He recommended not to proceed with taking over the dock. There is really not a benefit to it. Also recommended that it be added to the next agenda.

-Greydanus stated he would add it to the next agenda.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD - **Jerry Galiart (Crowley Marine)** Wanted to say thanks for the work that was done on the dock. He wanted to at a later date make a proposal about pulling out boats and putting them on the dock. His 2nd concern was safety on the dock and liability if someone got hurt. He said he saw kids running around the equipment on the dock. It should be a hard hat area.

He also commented on the nice work Howard Elliott had done 2 years ago keeping the dock clean and graded.

- Greydanus asked him that the stevedoring companies only paid \$500 to operate on the dock - what % of that should be used for maintenance.

- Galiart responded that wharfage and dockage rates should be used to maintain the dock. One example of current needs for the dock would be more gravel to fill in the holes.

- Fairbanks suggested that Galiart draw a map of the dock with suggestions for improvements on the dock and send it to the Port Commission.

- Galiart also inquired as to what the status was about fenders on the dock because he said the concrete fenders will not be good for the small barges.

Greydanus stated that he would like to make a comment.

- (Hunter, Bethel City Manager interjected and stated that he didn't think Stuart should just "come in and out" of the meeting because there are customers waiting to be heard.)

- Desousa and Richardson stated that they were interested in what Greydanus had to say. They requested that he continue with his comment.

-Greydanus finally commented on the fact that there is a \$680,0005 designayted for the seawall matching funds; there is a + \$800,000 fund with undesignated monies. We would like to use this surplus money for major projects.

*Next meeting will add to the agenda: Port security, safety and improvements for the dock.

*COMMENTS BY
CITY MANAGER*

- "Words that I allegedly used on management operations; I have been here for 4 meetings. Have I been here? Yes, I have been here. I'm sensitive; threatened by lawsuits. I can't do everything, but I'm responsible." My remarks about the Port was that I have concerns over certain areas of the Port, but that is a personnel matter with Stuart.

- Silta asked if Hunter could clarify his remarks about the dock being a "dump."

Hunter's Reply: When you have an asset, must invest in the asset. "There are holes in the area. Must focus on capital improvements by City Council. Fuel Port - what have we invested?"

- Richardson - (to Hunter) "Did you say it was a dump? We don't want to hear what you meant; what did you say?"

Hunter's Reply: "Sometimes refer to Stuart as the Port" (to Richardson) "I heard your radio show - You are trying to tar and feather me."

- Richardson (to Hunter) "All we have asked you for the last 10 minutes is did you say the Dock was a dump?"

- Silta asked how Public Works would service the Port? What would we do about security? Also commented that the Port Attendants are not considered "protection", they are considered "presence."

- Fairbanks asked Hunter if he had ever been on a tour of the Port with Stuart. (Hunter directed the question to Greydanus).

- Greydanus answered that the City Manager had seen the boat harbor when he first arrived in Bethel.

OLD BUSINESS

- Desousa stated that during the December 1993 meeting, the Port staffing was decided (based on public comments) that the Port keep the attendants. The Port Commission actually wanted to increase the number of Port attendants. Last year was the first year that we did not have any reports of theft.

- Fairbanks suggested that the Port Commission attend the next Council meeting under "People To Be Heard" and inform them of how important it is to have Port attendants.

Motion

M/M by Desousa and 2nd by Fairbanks to reconfirm decision for Port staffing for 1995 budget; consisting of Port Director, Administrative assistant, Port Coordinator, and 3 Port Attendants. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Kimo and Ray Thomas propose putting a lunch wagon at the Small Boat Harbor and would like to set up a lease agreement with a temporary hook up and a phone hook up. It was agreed that it would be a good idea because it would constitute a "presence" at the Small Boat Harbor.

- Greydanus suggested to ask Council for conditional use permit until bid came open. Also stated that there is room on the South side - next to the utility pole.

- Wintersteen inquired as to what a lease would cost. Desousa suggested allowing them to set up and pay a storage fee.

- Desousa asked whether they were set up for water and sewer. Kimo responded that it was self contained.

It was agreed that Wintersteen should go to Council and ask them to set up temporarily.

Motion

M/M by Richardson, 2nd by Fairbanks to inform Council that the Port Commission approves of allowing the lunch wagon to have a temporary permit until a lease can be issued. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

9:45 P.M.