

City of Bethel, Alaska

Port Commission Emergency Meeting

Date June 22, 2005 Special or regular Meeting Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel Port Commission was held on June 22, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Chairman Brandon Leary called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Donna Chris
 Brandon Leary
 Allen Desousa
 Clair Grifka
 Thor Williams - late

Excused absence(s): None

Unexcused absence(s): None

Also in attendance were the following:

Joanne Galliard, Acting Port Director
 Veronica Hoffman, Port Administrative Assistant

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Brandon speaks for Crowley, possibly a mooring spot to fill tugs with fuel by beach #1
 Pete replies that the only place to fill fuel is at the petro port.
 Allen suggests why don't we talk about this at next meeting.

M/M to approve minutes form April 18, 2005

MOVED BY:	D. Chris	Approval of minutes
SECONDED BY:	A. DeSousa	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously
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M/M to approve minutes from April 3, 2005

MOVED BY:	A. DeSousa	Approval of minutes
SECONDED BY:	D. Chris	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously

M/M to postpone items A, B, C of New Business and all Old Business to next regular meeting

MOVED BY:	D. Chris	Postpone items A,B,C of New Business and All Old Business
SECONDED BY:	A. DeSousa	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously
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NEW BUSINESS

Port director's report

After reading the Corps of Engineers Seawall Inspection report done in Sept 2004 which was received by the City in Feb of 2005 my concerns were sever enough I contacted Heath Martin and Wayne Ogle from public works. I felt the work needed to comply with making the necessary repair was more than the port could handle. When they reviewed the report they assisted with a plan to address and implement the corrective action required to satisfy the Corps of Engineers and to provide stability to the area in question.

On inspecting the area of concern it is evident there will need to be extensive repair done this summer to maintain the integrity of the seawall down river from the bus barn to the petro port.

The continual traffic of 2, 3 & 4 wheel vehicles up and down the slope has caused a great deal of damage, all previous efforts to stop this very destructive use of the slopes has met with failure. Seawall pipes have been put on the slopes, as have old crane booms, but the drivers of the vehicles just push them out of the way or find another source of access. This coupled with natural erosion, has put the area into sever distress, which must be corrected immediately.

The emergency request for the bathymetric survey of the Kuskokwim in front of town has been issued; I believe ASCG may be to Bethel on June 29th to do this survey. This will give us some comparisons as they have provided this service for the past several years. With the apparent change in the river channel and the fact that the seawall is now reaching the 25 year mark, it is very important to be very attentive with current and future maintenance needs. Bethel and the entire Kuskokwim delta are reliant on the effective operation of the Port of Bethel.

All of the slips at the small boat harbor are issued, however, we still have a few that have not been paid for, but will give the customers until the end of the week to pay for them. Boat harbor use permit sales are slowing down, which usually happens in mid June. There have been a few instances of vandalism and theft at the small boat harbor, but due to the diligence of the port attendants is seems less than in past years.

There have not been any additional mainline barges since the last report; we are expecting Northland to arrive this weekend. Only 1 additional fuel barge delivered 151,544 gal of fuel.

Due to normal erosion, we are doing some work on Beach 1 attached to the city dock, so it will be easier for freight barges to dock to load or unload freight. This beach is used for all rolling stock and in many cases for other freight as well.

Chairman Comments: **Brandon** - Has checked out lower seawall area and will wait until item comes up on agenda to address.

Commissioners Comments:

Clair - Sorry he missed Monday's meeting.

Donna- reports that she will be at the next meeting but will be going on vacation for 2 months, she leaves on the 19th

Allen - Nothing

Item D- Seawall Reserve Fund Balance

Joanne states we currently have about 2.1 million dollars in the reserved fund. It will cost about 43,000 dollars for the upper addition revision of seawall. She estimates the port brings in about 350,000 dollars in profit each year

- 1. rock currently on hand:
Heath: we have about 15000 cubic yards for seawall maintenance yards which equates to 22,500 tons.
Heath: We need about 2525 tons for emergency repair, which equates to approximately 1700 cubic yards which we have in stock.

M/M to do whatever it necessary to transfer 500,000 dollars from reserve for seawall maintenance

MOVED BY:	A. DeSousa	Approved motion to move 500,000 dollars from reserve for seawall maintenance
SECONDED BY:	D. Chris	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously
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Discussion on above motion:

Heath: says the repair is currently extensive enough the port does not have the equipment or personnel to complete the repair in a timely manner, he also suggested since this needs to be started immediately the City Council needs to be advised immediately.

Donna: we should send a representative to council meeting tonight to talk as people to be heard.

M/M to bring seawall repair situation to City Council at tonight's meeting

MOVED BY:	D. Chris	Motion to present a letter to Acting City Manager, John Malone to bring the motion for the \$500,000 to the attention of the City Council at their meeting tonight.
SECONDED BY:	A. DeSousa	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously
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Item E – Options available for port director for when Joanne leaves.

Joanne: we need someone to work year round and who ever takes my place will have their hands full. My last day is Friday July 1st.

Brandon: I agree that the port director's position needs to be a year round position.

Clair- the winter can be used for planning and because during the summer things move very fast and eventually we won't be able to keep up after this year.

Allen- also a thing to do during the winter would the ice roads and another thing to consider is the port employees to be hired sooner.

M/M to send to council to make this position year round.

MOVED BY:	C. Grifka	Approved motion to send to council to make port director position year round.
SECONDED BY:	A. DeSousa	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously
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Allen- when we present to council we should make a list of reasons why it's important we make the port directors position a year round.

1. Winter port security, and loss of revenue from operators using the port for staging during the winter, and needs have daily checks.
2. Preventative maintenance needs to be planned during the winter and all materials and preparation be done before the beginning of the season each year.
3. Economic development needs to be done during the winter, a year round Port Director should be making contact with construction company's and other developers that might use the port so they know what we have available and we can meet their needs. This hopefully will halt transfer of goods at Goodnews Bay and other sites and stop the building of another port in the Kuskokwim Delta. In turn this will provide increased revenue.
4. Someone to represent the Port at City Council, port commission and other community meetings and to organize the port commission meetings in the winter time.
5. If this position is not made year round, we'll have the problem of probably rehiring a different port director every year. Loss of intuitional memory and having to start at square 1 each year will be a sever disadvantage to the Port of Bethel and the entire community.

Thor arrives late

Joanne fills Thor in on all the things we've discussed

M/M to recommend to council for acting port position be offered to Heath Martin affective July 2nd, His public works job be advertised as a temporary fill in position

MOVED BY:	Donna	Approved to recommend to council for heath to be acting port director, meanwhile his public works job be advertised as a temporary fill in position.
SECONDED BY:	Thor	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously
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Discussion

John Malone- states the RFP ends on the 30th and construction company's are going to respond, we were allocated about \$ 771,000 for repair of the City Dock where it failed this spring. The \$771,000 will be disbursed through D. E. C.

Mr. Malone also stated we were in a take it or loose it situation with the \$600,000 offered by the State of Alaska, to take over the maintenance on the city dock. He stated the city was adamant about them transferring the ownership of the land to us also and the State was in Agreement.

Thor- basically either we take it or some one else will have it.

M/M to make the \$600,000 from state be combined with the Seawall reserve fund and be put in a totally separate bank account.

MOVED BY:	Allen	The \$600,000 from the State of Alaska by put in a separate bank account and the money from the Seawall reserve fund also be put in this account as was intended originally.
SECONDED BY:	Donna	

*Thor: friendly amendment that the interest be kept in account
Allen: accepted*

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously
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Thor: discusses the budget ends on the 30th.

Allen: asks when do the cells at the petro dock get tested?

John: states the bathymetric survey is moved up to next week on June 28th.

Allen: we should have cells tested on a regular basis.

M/M to adjourn

MOVED BY:	Donna	Made motion to adjourn meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Allen	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed unanimously
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APPROVED THIS 22 day of June 2005.

ATTEST:

Joanne Galliard, Acting Port Director