
City of Bethel, Alaska

PORT COMMISSION MEETING

July 21, 2003

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Port Commission was held on July 21, 2003, at 7:35 p.m. at the City dock office.

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Richardson	DeSousa
Severn	Chris
Leary	

Excused absence(s): none

Unexcused absence(s): Rodgers & Yager

Also in attendance were the following:

Howard Elliott, Port Director
Joanne Galliard, Commission Secretary

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

A. Dave Trantham:

- Thanked the port commission and port staff for their comprehensive minutes and for informative Port Directors reports.
- Thanked the port commissioners for their hard work and dedication.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	DeSousa	To approve the amended minutes of the regular meeting of June 16.
SECONDED BY:	Leary	

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

MOVED BY:	DeSousa	To approve the agenda with the addition of old business item C: April minutes
SECONDED BY:	Severn	

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

The port received 2600 tons of "B" size rock on June 28th and June 29th this was added to the existing rock storage area. The original order was for 2050 tons, we were able to pick up an additional 550 tons at a much reduced price.

Work has continued on the parking lot at the small boat harbor, due to the limited parking space it has been necessary to impound trailers left in the parking area that are not attached to tow vehicles. Now that we are several months into the 2003 season we have also been impounding boats in the small boat harbor that do not have SMALL BOAT HARBOR USE PERMITS.

With 2 mainline barge company's operating in Bethel the dock has been very busy and crowded. Several of the vessels stored on the dock have been sold and removed or are in the process of being removed. All owners have been given notice vessels will have to be removed from the City dock area by May 15, 2004 to allow room for normal freight business to operate. Once the vessels are removed there is some much needed maintenance on the dock surface that can be done.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Severn: Was interested in the time line and funding for the dredging of the entrance to the small boat harbor.

Leary: Asked about the status of the RFP for the new mobile lights plants (we are currently getting quotes on new and used.) He inquired as to the information about a child being injured on the gates by the lower seawall. (These gates have been since removed as we were not able to keep them locked, the chains kept getting cut and closed they did not allow for emergency vehicles to access the seawall.)

Chris: Voiced concern about the traffic on the lower seawall and about kids swimming off the seawall. (This has always been a problem and even with the port attendants police patrolling the area and advising children not to swim or dive from the seawall it continues.) There was a question if the City Council could take any action or pass an ordinance to prohibit swimming from the seawall.

DeSousa: Requested status of phones at the small boat harbor. (Up and working)

Richardson: He had concerns over the road in front of the south ramp and asked if it could be graded smoother, which may mean adding gravel or sand. There was a concern about people parking at the end of the designated parking area on the south ramp which puts parked vehicles in the road and blocks access to the ramp, would it be possible to block the area or put a no parking sign there? He also asked if the dumpster on the north side could be moved out where it can be seen so people would use it; maybe put it beside the phone booth and port-a-pot.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A — Discussion Item: Seasonal Moorage:

MOVED BY:	DeSousa	To postpone action until the end of the season when a work session can be held and changes made for next season. . .
SECONDED BY:	Leary	

Discussion on how to change seasonal moorage rate to compensate for loss of possible dockage revenue. Requirements such as Bethel based operators only, and list of vessels that will use the space provided prior to season will have to be decided.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item B — Discussion Item: Crow Property status:

Discussion only: Crows have not signed sale agreement so no action to facilitate sale is currently being done. Questions on contamination report and status of clean up grant.

Item C — Discussion Item: April 17, 2003 minutes

MOVED BY:	DeSousa	To have Joanne make the correction of the April Minutes to reflect the dissatisfaction with the distribution of March minutes without them being approved...
SECONDED BY:	Severn	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Item A – Long Reach Backhoe

Presentation by Port Director Howard Elliott on benefits of the port purchasing a long reach backhoe that reaches at least 50 ft, to dredge the entrance to as well as the small boat harbor, it could also be used to dredge Brown Slough to reclaim more usable dock space along the slough dockwall.

MOVED BY:	DeSousa	To postpone any further action until Mr. Elliott can prepare a report which includes cost of purchase and operation of backhoe and possible revenue sources to purchase this piece of equipment.
SECONDED BY:	Leary	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item B— Discussion Item: Additional Mooring Bits along seawall

Commissioner Leary stated he had been approached by several people who use the seawall for docking their commercial vessels and asked if it would be possible for the port to place additional mooring bits along the seawall especially along the seawall across from 1st Nat'l Bank. It was brought up that maybe we needed to have an assessment done on how many mooring bits we really need and where and put the installation of these bits out for bid. Port Director Elliott said he could put in the additional bits where needed including along the seawall across from 1st Nat'l Bank.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Chris	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	DeSousa	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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C. S. Richardson, Chairman

Joanne Galliard, Commission Secretary