

PORTS AND HARBOR COMMISSION  
Minutes for Special Meeting  
May 9, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bruce Painter called the regular meeting of the Ports and Harbor Commission to order at 7:34 p.m. in the Valdez City Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Bruce Painter, Laura Meadors, Steve Cotter, Jeff Johnson, John Bradshaw, and Colleen Stephens.

Commissioner Bernie Culbertson was absent and excused.

Also present: Diane Kinney, Ports & Harbor Director; Steve Waller, Harbormaster; Sarah VonBargen, Harbor Office Manager; Lisa VonBargen, Community & Economic Development Department Director; Karen Feero, Recording Secretary; and 4 members of the audience.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 15, 2011

The minutes for the March 15, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no business from the floor.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Steve Waller, Harbormaster, reported the harbor is ready for the summer season. The Harbor high mast lighting project has been completed. Harbor staff has been interviewing applicants for summer positions. The restroom renovation project has been awarded and will start in the fall.

Diane Kinney, Ports & Harbor Director reported the May Day Fly-In this past weekend was a success. Port staff is preparing the Kelsey Dock for the summer season and the plaza tent should be up this week. There is a scheduled ammo move next week.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Recommendation Naming Rates and Fees for Use of Facilities in the Valdez Small Boat Harbor.  
(Postponed from Regular Meeting of 2/1/11)

Motion on the floor from the February 1, 2011 meeting:

**MOTION: Commissioner Bradshaw moved, seconded by Commissioner Meadors, to approve the recommendation Naming Rates and Fees for Use of Facilities in the Valdez Small Boat Harbor.**

Ms. Kinney spoke with the Clerk's Office regarding the procedure for postponing this recommendation until the SARB outcome. The City Clerk suggested postponing the recommendation indefinitely. Ms. Kinney explained in doing so the Commission will have the information to discuss with City Council at a work session and can then make a recommendation at a later time.

Ms. Kinney updated and condensed the work sheets with all the information for a work session with the council. The work sheet titled "Estimated 2010 Administrative Expenses" breaks down the expenses that the commission is recommending being covered by the harbor budget and general fund. The first page shows the harbor expenses the commission felt needed to be covered under the harbor budget. The second page shows expenses such as equipment costs and snow removal that would come out of the general fund.

Ms. Kinney also explained the spreadsheet highlighted in blue shows the added information on what the increase would be if approved by council.

**MOTION TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY: Commissioner Stephens moved, seconded by Commissioner Bradshaw, to postpone the recommendation indefinitely.**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Culbertson). Motion carried.**

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Recommendation to Council to Lease a 10,000 Square Foot Portion of Tract J, Harbor Subdivision to Peter Pan Seafoods

**MOTION: Commissioner Meadors moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve a recommendation to Council to lease a 10,000 square foot portion of Tract J, Harbor Subdivision to Peter Pan Seafoods**

Commissioner Bradshaw expressed his concern with making sure the totes are cleaned and sanitized. He was concerned with the smell from the totes if they were not cleaned properly.

Gary Johnson, Peter Pan Plant Manager, responded that the expectation is to have the totes cleaned and sanitized properly.

Commissioner Meadors asked if the lease is for a 1 year period to try it out.

Lisa VonBargen, Community & Economic Development Director, explained that even though the application states there is an option to renew yearly, at this time the lease is for 1 year. She said with the master planning efforts at Sea Otter and the planned demolition of the buildings this summer, there may be some other things that need to be done with the property. Ms. VonBargen informed the Commission that the Planning & Zoning Commission will take action on this item at their meeting on Wednesday.

Commissioner Meadors asked if there would be improvements to this property with regards to the lease. Ms. VonBargen said that at this time there would be no permanent improvements to the property.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Culbertson). Motion carried.**

B. Approval of Recommendation to Council to Renew the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Valdez Yellow Cab

**MOTION: Commissioner Johnson moved, seconded by Commissioner Meadors to approve a recommendation to Council to renew the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Valdez Yellow Cab.**

Commissioner Bradshaw questioned the paperwork that was attached from National Casualty Company. Commissioner Bradshaw did not see the National Insurance paperwork covering any vehicles.

Commissioner Stephens inquired about the coverage for the Windstar and Dodge, the insurance paperwork does not show coverage for all vehicles.

Ms. Gail Johnson, owner of Valdez Yellow Cab informed the Commissioners that the Dodge vehicle is listed under Billie Smith's paperwork which is covered under Hartford Insurance and the Windstar vehicle is covered under National Casualty Company. Ms. Johnson also explained the Mercury was marked off the list due to mechanical issues.

Ms. Kinney mentioned the proposed rate increase that is attached to the paperwork. She reminded Commissioners that rates were not increased during the last renewal even with the increase in gas prices.

Commissioner Bradshaw commented that he felt the proposed rate increase was very reasonable.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Culbertson). Motion carried.**

C. Approval of Recommendation to Council Endorsing the Alaska Clean Harbor Program and Actions that Result in an Alaska Clean Harbor Certification

**MOTION: Commissioner Stephens moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the recommendation to Council endorsing the Alaska Clean Harbor Program and actions that result in an Alaska Clean Harbor certification.**

Commissioner Bradshaw commented that there was not too much to implement with this recommendation.

Alan Sorum summarized the history on the Clean Harbor Pledge. He explained that around 2002/03 he wrote a publication with Sea Grant on operations and maintenance for northern harbors and small ports. Mr. Sorum and the Seward harbormaster combined their experience and started the Clean Harbor Program. Specific areas discussed in the program are wash down pads, used oil collection, hazardous material collection, vessel maintenance stations, and fencing around garbage stations. Mr. Sorum mentioned the Valdez Small Boat Harbor has been proactive in complying with the Clean Harbor Program. He said compliance with the Alaska Clean Harbor Program is on a volunteer basis and shows good stewardship of our environment and helps with mitigation for other projects.

Ms. Kinney inquired whether or not this resolution needed to go to the Clean Harbor Program when applying for a certification.

Mr. Sorum indicated the support from Council and the City will show DEC and other harbors in Alaska that the Valdez Small Boat Harbor is on board with environmental issues that affect harbors.

Ms. Kinney will forward this recommendation to Council for approval and support.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Culbertson). Motion carried.**

D. Discussion Item: Harbor Restrooms - Renovation

Ms. Kinney showed the Commission a sample of the paint colors that have been selected for the restroom. Ms. Kinney also noted that the drawings are at 95% submittal, but this is the first time staff or the Commission has seen them, so if someone sees something that needs to be addressed please let her know.

Commissioner Bradshaw questioned why the boiler was being moved to a separate building. Mr. Bradshaw felt the plan to move water through a piece of pipe 30 feet long in an unheated area to an attached building seemed like a mechanical nightmare.

Mr. Waller explained the Harbor office is extremely hot since there is no insulation between the floors and the Building Maintenance Department thought this was the best plan. Harbor staff did not have input into that project.

Ms. Kinney mentioned that on the drawings there were no doors on the handicapped stalls, so the red marks are the indication of the handicapped doors. Also staff noted the hand dryers were in an odd location.

Commissioner Bradshaw asked if the city had received a cost for this project. Mr. Waller said he had not seen a dollar amount.

Commissioner Bradshaw inquired whether or not a brand name had been selected for the countertops in the restrooms. Ms. Kinney said the staff had just got the drawings, so they were still reviewing them.

Chairman Painter asked Commissioner Bradshaw what he would recommend for the countertops. Commissioner Bradshaw recommended stainless steel countertops instead of Corian, which basically is an everyday home construction use material. Commissioner Bradshaw suggested the stainless steel countertops would be better for the wear and tear of public restrooms.

Ms. Kinney said the Commission will receive the 100% project drawings.

#### VIII. REPORTS

There were no reports.

#### IX. INFORMATION

A. *Alaska Business Monthly* Article "Moving Freight in Alaska"

B. *Pacific Maritime* Article "Alaska and Hawaii – Emerging from Recession"

Commissioner Bradshaw noted that no one ever wants to mention Valdez. Commissioner Stephens indicated that the Alaska Dispatch and AKontheGo.com had wonderful articles about Valdez.

C. Valdez City Council Minutes of 3/7/11, 3/21/11, 3/29/11 and 4/4/11

There was no discussion on these items.

#### X. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Stephens mentioned she was accosted in Fairbanks on the fishing issues in the harbor from harbor users. Commissioner Stephens recommended the more information and education the city can communicate to the public on the fishing policy before the fishing season begins, the better it will

be. Commissioner Stephens mentioned the Fairbanks harbor users would like to see the control of fishing in the harbor enforced and the harbor users were also concerned with the safety issues from fishing in the harbor.

Ms. Kinney informed the Commission that the harbor staff has spoken with the Coast Guard and the State of Alaska Department of Fish & Wildlife. Mr. Waller said Fish & Wildlife doesn't want to get involved and felt it should be handled in-house. Mr. Sorum said the board of fish were the only ones that can ban fishing.

Commissioner Stephens said the Department of Fish & Game has changed the regulations in other harbors. It is illegal to fish in the Whittier harbor. She would like to completely ban fishing in the harbor. She said their bow rail was hooked. Commissioner Meadors said her dog was almost hooked while on their boat.

Commissioner Bradshaw said there were a lot of children fishing off the bank and it is a safe place for them to fish. He said these are kids on bikes enjoying fishing. The Kelsey Dock is difficult for kids because it is a long way to haul the fish up out of the water. He indicated that he would support the restriction recommendation as long as there is a safe area for children to fish.

Commissioner Cotter commented that he would support restricting fishing off the docks and trolling in the harbor.

Commissioner Stephens suggested having some control of the fishing for one year and see how the public responds to the policy.

Mr. Waller said people have been fishing in the harbor since it was built.

Ms. Kinney mentioned the city can try to restrict the fishing off the docks and boats trolling, but fishing on the banks will be much harder to enforce and will not be popular.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA  
PORTS AND HARBOR COMMISSION

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Bruce Painter, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Karen Feero, Recording Secretary