

**MICHIGAN CITY PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

February 9, 2009

TIME & PLACE

The regular meeting of the Michigan City Port Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Port Authority board room.

OFFICER & ATTENDANCE

President James Jaksa presided. Board members in attendance included James Cadwell, Jonita Davis, Todd Dickard, John Haynes, Sam Johns and John Quinn. Harbormaster Tim Frame, Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke and Assistant Harbormaster of Operations Dan Hoepf were also in attendance.

Attorney Jeffery Katz was not asked to attend this meeting.

Guests in attendance included Mike Hampel of the *Charter Boat Association*.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by John Quinn, seconded by Sam Johns, the board approved the minutes to the previous meeting.

GUEST COMMENTS

In regards to the proposed merger of the Michigan City Port Authority with the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department, Mike Hampel had inquired as to its validity at the previous meeting, reiterating Mr. Jaksa's understanding that only the prospective boards would merge, not the departments. Since then he has researched House Bill no. 1469, introduced by State Representative Scott Pelath on January 14, 2009, and reviewed **IC-36-10-3.5, Article C, Section 3**, (see attached). Mr. Hampel was concerned that as the Port Authority board is one of the City's largest and highest paid boards at approximately \$26,000.00 in fees for 2008; he inquired what savings the city would benefit from in terms of board fees if they are paid from marina revenues solely provided by means of slip holder fees. In addition, upon review of the Port Authority's financial statement, Mr. Hampel went on to express his concerns over what would happen to the cash reserves and bond pay-off reserves, in the event of a merger and what restrictions would be placed to protect these assets.

Mr. Hampel went on to express his apprehension that no one on either the Park Department nor Port Authority boards had any prior knowledge of this proposal as Representative Pelath had introduced it prior to the January 26th board meeting; he expressed his opinion that the bill should be revised to protect and separate Port Authority funds in advance of the June 30, 2009 vote process.

BILLS

Upon motion made by John Quinn, seconded by James Cadwell, the board approved payment of the bills as presented by Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke.

REPORT FROM HARBORMASTER

Harbormaster Tim Frame informed the board he recently attended a workshop on ecoli and beach closures presented by Dr. Tinselmann of Racine, WI, which included representatives from the *Sanitation Department, Parks & Recreation Department* and the *Department of Natural Resources*. The presentation shared various practices on how to cut back such as the use of grooming and clean-up equipment and restriction from feeding the birds. Dr. Tinselmann also discussed various testing and experimentation on the likes and dislikes of the ecoli bacteria. Harbormaster Frame was informed by Mayor Oberle he would like to set up a workshop with members of both the Port Authority and Parks board to discuss how we can reduce bacteria induced closures, as beach usage is a huge economic gain for our city.

Harbormaster Frame informed the board, as the city is working on cut backs during the fiscal year, a meeting was held with himself, Committee Chairman John Haynes and Assistant Harbormaster Pawlicke to discuss ideas on how to reduce the Port Authority's budget. He submitted a 2009 budget report indicating the various expense cuts for the board to review, stating there are still a number of vacant slips available for the upcoming season.

Upon motion made by John Quinn, seconded by Sam Johns, the board approved the new 2009 budget to be revised with a \$180,000.00 reduction in costs.

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT HARBORMASTERS

Assistant Harbormaster of Operations Dan Hoepf reviewed the following projects:

1. All holiday lights have been taken down with the exception of the fountain lights at Millennium Plaza. The staff was unable to remove due to the mass of snow still covering it, but hopes to have removed by the end of the week.
2. Insulation work in the Trail Creek building is almost complete, having already seen a major improvement in energy savings.
3. Small barge has been inspected showing slight damage to the front ends.
 - ✓ **Reinforced pontoons**
 - ✓ **Striped & Painted**
 - ✓ **Checked proper safety gear as per State & Federal regulations**

Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf reported the staff has completed 259 days (3,145 hours) without an incident and 1,294 days (14,613 hours) without a lost time accident.

Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke informed the board new locks had been installed on office entry doors and issued keys to each member, requesting the old ones be returned.

Assistant Harbormaster Pawlicke reviewed the previous NIPSCO gas and electric bill in the amount of \$9,000.00 indicating one half of that was allocated to Trail Creek Marina. Ms. Pawlicke informed the board due to the new L.E.D. holiday lighting and building insulation at TCM, we are already experiencing an approximate 50% reduction in usage and fees.

Assistant Harbormaster Pawlicke also informed the board billing for the final installment of slip fees will be mailed out next week. She spoke with Attorney Jeffrey Katz who informed her the fuel bid notice will also be advertised next week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

On behalf of the **Budget and Financial Oversight Committee**, John Haynes had nothing to report.

On behalf of the **Claims and Insurance Committee**, James Cadwell had nothing to report.

On behalf of the **Master Planning and Special Projects Committee**, Sam Johns made a proposal to replace the 1994 GMC 2500 truck, which has over 325,000 miles and is in rough condition. Upon motion made by Sam Johns, seconded by John Quinn, the board approved replacement of the 1994 GMC not to exceed \$30,000.00.

On behalf of the **Boater Communications, Special Events and Advertising Committee**, John Haynes requested the committee schedule a meeting to discuss the upcoming 50th Anniversary dinner for the Port Authority along with the Steelheaders Pro-Am and CoHo Classic fishing tournaments scheduled for April and May.

On behalf of the **Port Operations, Personnel and Marina Policy Committee**, Todd Dickard requested a committee meeting be scheduled with Harbormaster Frame and Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf, to discuss miscellaneous and general operations.

OLD BUSINESS

James Jaksa informed the board, *Tonn & Blank, Inc.* will begin the north shore sand reclamation and boat launch extension project on Monday, February 16th. Completion deadline is scheduled for April 1st. Mr. Jaksa will submit a description of the project to be advertised in the *News Dispatch*.

NEW BUSINESS

Jonita Davis informed the board at the last Parks & Recreations Department board meeting she attended; they discussed the bacteria ecoli issue and proposed to enforce an ordinance to prevent littering. John Haynes stated that marinas throughout the State of Michigan impose fines for feeding the birds. Harbormaster Frame stated although he has spoken with the DNR about problems we face, they have remained non-committal. He hopes the upcoming workshop will be beneficial for the area.

Mike Hampel informed the board most vessels have holding tanks and bypass with the ability to pump directly into the body of water and although the Port Authority has regulations against this practice, many boaters that remain docked through the majority of the season do this and go unnoticed. He suggested random inspections. As a previous member of the U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf informed him, per U.S.C.G. regulations overboard discharge is required to be locked. Approximately 30% of the marinas vessels receive random inspections.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by John Quinn, seconded by James Cadwell, the board adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Cadwell, Board Secretary

Approved by: _____
James Jaksa, Board President

