

**MICHIGAN CITY PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

September 28, 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.

ATTENDANCE

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

Attorney Jeffrey Katz was not asked to attend this meeting.

Guests in attendance included Steve Kreighbaum, Mike Hampel, Laurie and Bill Wiseman with the Charter Boat Association and Laurie Wink of the News Dispatch.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by James Cadwell, seconded by Jonita Davis, the board approved the minutes to the previous meeting.

BILLS

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

REPORT FROM HARBORMASTER

Harbormaster Tim Frame reported on the following:

- IDEM responded to our application regarding the new boat ramp project. The application generated some questions, which we expected. In reply to those questions, Harbormaster Frame and Rick Smigielski of Abonmarche met with IDEM representative Elizabeth Pelloso, giving her a tour of the boat ramp project at Nipsco, Millennium Plaza and upper Trail Creek. The tour was successful in that it answered many of IDEM's questions, although some of the questions are related to design work and will be answered once the final design is completed. Harbormaster Frame feels the process will quickly move forward now that IDEM has a better understanding of each specific project.
- The Army Corp of Engineers would like to set up an appointment for October 13, 2009. Harbormaster Frame suggested that board members Jim Jaksa and Sam Johns might be interested in attending said meeting. Mr. Johns and Mr. Jaksa agreed, and both felt that a morning meeting would be best. Harbormaster Frame agreed to contact the Corp to finalize arrangements.

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT HARBORMASTERS

- Assistant Harbormaster of Operations Dan Hoepf reported they are pulling swim buoys and have three left to pull at this time.
- Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf confirmed that to date, twenty-three (23) vessels have been pulled and set for winter storage at Trail Creek. He also stated that they are getting equipment ready for winterization of the marina, as well as preparing a list of winter projects.

- Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf informed the board of 476 days (5,679 hours) without an incident and 1,511 days (17,151 hours) without a lost time accident.

Sam Johns asked when the marina water system would be shut down. Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf expects to shut the system down approximately October 20th.

Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf answered Todd Dickard's question regarding Trail Creek water depth stating current water level appears to be in the range of 4'.

Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke informed the board of the following:

- The Port Authority has received reimbursement of \$250.75 for vandalism done to the lighthouse. The vandals will also have to perform community service work. .
- We have received payment for the Boat Show concessions from the Exchange Club and Party Barge in the amount of \$1914.80.
- Second half invoices for winter storage went out last week.
- At this time we have 11 open slips at Washington Park for the 2010 season.
- Reminded board members that due to the Labor Day holiday the next board meeting is shifted to Monday, October 5th,

COMMITTEE REPORTS

On behalf of the **Budget and Financial Oversight Committee**, Todd Dickard reviewed the budget, explaining changes in revenue sources for the upcoming year, and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Sam Johns commended Todd on the manner in which the finance committee meetings were held, particularly his openness for input by committee members, and after congratulating Todd and the PA staff, Mr. Johns then made a motion to approve the proposed budget, Dan Messina seconded the motion after also stating his agreement with Sam regarding the meetings,. Before the vote was taken, Mr. Dickard proposed an amendment to the budget suggesting a 20% cap to the charter boat surcharge, explaining that the current budget reflects a 25% surcharge following the original sliding scale regarding charter boat fees that was in approved in 2006 board minutes. The board approved the 20% cap amendment to the proposed 2010 budget. The vote was split as follows: 4 yes, 2 no and 1 no vote.

After some discussion, the 2010 budget was passed unanimously.

Mr. Jakska congratulated and thanked the present board, as well as past Port Authority boards for their fiscal responsibility.

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 reported that he had nothing new to report as we are still waiting on the Army Corp for all of our outstanding permits.

On behalf of the **Boater Communications and Special Events Committee**, John Haynes reported contacting Ed Beutner regarding the Cardboard Boat Race. He would like it to coincide with another scheduled event, so that there will be no reason to close the WP boat launch ramp an extra day. Mr. Haynes and his committee will explore upcoming scheduled Michigan City events and meet with Mr. Beutner. A suggestion was made to also invite the Park Department to the committee meeting. A committee meeting was set for Friday, October 2, 2009 at 1:00 pm.

On behalf of the **Port Operations, Personal and Marina Policy Committee**, Dan Messina had nothing to report.

On behalf of the **Public Relations and Advertising Committee**, Jonita Davis presented information regarding ads running weekly in the Harbor Country newspaper that is available on Thursdays, as well as business size ads that are running in the News Dispatch.

- After presenting information regarding changes to the ad in the La Porte County 2010 Visitor's Guide, a motion was made by Jonita Davis, seconded by Sam Johns, to approve an allocation of \$1000.00 for a 1/3 page ad in the La Porte County 2010 Visitors Guide.

Sam Johns requested a list of addresses only of new slip holders in an effort to decipher where they are coming from, in order to help build a database for future reference. Dan Messina stated that it would be a good thing to also keep track of slip sizes most in demand, so that in the event of marina expansion, slips most in demand could be constructed.

- o Jonita Davis stated that sometime in December she will get her committee together to review continuation of television ads, as well as radio ads. She also stated that volunteers are need for the live AM radio ads.
- o Ms. Davis also stated that she has collaborated with Scott Wills in adding an offshoot page to our website explaining the ongoing repairs at Millennium Plaza

OLD BUSINESS

Todd Dickard informed the board that throughout the summer he has been unofficially collecting information regarding marina fees from Hammond, IN to South Haven, MI. In his estimation, our pricing is very competitive.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

GUEST COMMENTS

Steve Kreighbaum, a charter boater from the 700 dock at WP questioned whether the finance committee had met unofficially after the previous meeting, because he had been told by other charter boaters who had been in attendance, that the committee appeared to be deadlocked. At tonight's meeting though, an amendment to change the fee from 25% to 20%, the fee was quickly voted upon and passed, without any further talk of a set vendor fee. Charter boaters, Bill and Laurie Weiseman, corroborated Mr. Kreighbaum's statement. Board President Jaksa advised Mr. Kreighbaum that, in fact, there was not a separate meeting, and part of the job of the finance committee chairman is to present the budget to the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Sam Johns, seconded by James Cadwell, the board adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Haynes, Board Secretary

Approved On: _____
Date

By: _____
James Jaksa, Board President