

ESCANABA HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017: 5:00 PM

Catherine Bonifas Civic Center, Main Meeting Room, 225 North 21st St, Escanaba, MI
49829

- CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 5:02 pm.
- BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Gregg Bruff, Council members Marilyn Kinsey, Alex Sundstrom
- BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patricia Baribeau, City Council Liaison
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Larry Gravatt, Harbor Master
Brooks Bougie, Recreation Office Assistant
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** Sudy Gravatt, Craig Woerpel

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO: Meeting minutes of October, 2015; motion to approve as written by Marilyn Kinsey, seconded by Alex Sundstrom, motion carried unanimous.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

Alex Sundstrom motioned to approve, seconded by Marilyn Kinsey, motion carried unanimous.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Review of Board Guidelines.** Larry Gravatt explained and reviewed the term limits of each board member and mentioned that after each members term is up they can re up for a second term. Alex Sundstrom questioned why he was not able to serve on the board while employed with the city. Larry Gravatt explained that it would be a possible conflict of interest. Larry Gravatt explained that the Harbor Advisory Board is just that, an advisory board, they can advise but the ultimate decision is up to the council. Larry Gravatt further reviewed the guidelines with the board. Alex Sundstrom motioned to approve the board guidelines, seconded by Marilyn Kinsey, motion carried unanimous.

2. **Appointment of Chairperson.** Larry Gravatt explained that the board has to discuss the appointment of a chairperson. The board discussed the appointment of a chairperson, Marilyn Kinsey motioned to approve Gregg Bruff as chairperson, the motion was seconded by Alex Sundstrom, the motion carried unanimous.

3. **Review of Budget for 2017-2018.** Larry Gravatt stated that the budget meetings were held today and the budget was approved by council as stated. The budget is 1.7% higher than last year; the budget is set at \$244,102 for the year. Larry stated that the marina usually runs under that number. He then stated that last year the marina has combined their two loans for a savings of \$11,413 from previous years. Larry then went on to explain future balances and budgets for the upcoming year. He then explained that there are a lot of projects that need to be completed at the marina and explained that all the projects are centered around the docks being replaced; Larry explained last year he put together a 5 year plan and submitted it to Waterways, the number one priority was replacing the L-Docks, followed by the Baraga docks, then pier one, finally pier three. He also stated that they also discussed putting in a bathroom down by pier three. He discussed that the committee will be putting together a specific plan for these projects. Marilyn Kinsey questioned the cost of replacing the docks; Larry Gravatt stated that the marina received a quote a few years back on the replacement of the baraga dock; he then stated that council has granted \$150,000 dollars to the marina for a \$300,000 matching funds grant through Waterways for next year as the deadline has already passed for this year.

Larry explained that in the budget meetings there was a question brought up about fuel and he explained that the marina never loses money on fuel, it may look like it but the marina is always making a little bit on fuel and they stay on par with other marinas in the area, i.e. Gladstone, Menominee and Cedar River. Larry then explained that there is also an eventual need for new gas tanks as the current ones are getting old and becoming harder and harder to keep insured because of all the regulations. Gregg Bruff questioned what type of material the tanks are; Larry explained that the gas tanks are made of single wall fiberglass. Marilyn Kinsey questioned that moving forward if there were possibilities to looking for funding in the future to replace the gas tanks. Gregg Bruff then questioned if a formal proposal is needed to receive funding from Waterways. Larry stated that he will speak with Waterways on the direction the marina needs to take for future repairs in order to get funding.

4. **Overview of Upcoming Season.** Larry stated that this upcoming season looks to be a good one; a lot of new boaters coming in. Greg Bruff asked about Marina Fest, Larry stated that \$1,000 is set aside every year for the event and they rarely surpass that in the four years the marina has had the event. Larry stated that the event basically pays for itself. He then stated that the marina is open to boaters on May 1st and runs through October 1st. In closing Larry stated that the board will have to work on getting the 5 year plan together to get everything in order to begin the process of updates at the marina.

MISCELLANEOUS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Alex Sundstrom motioned for adjournment, seconded by Marilyn Kinsey. The motion carried unanimously at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Gravatt, Harbor Master

Gregg Bruff, Chairperson

Date