

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
Monday June 10, 2013, 7:00 P.M.
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Sue Knauer, David Larson, Tony Matera, Jerry Gruen, Dan Herlache, and Bill Driscoll

Others Present

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny
City Administrator Mark Grams

1. **Roll Call:** (Absent: Jerry Baganz)

2. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting**

Sue Knauer made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Dave Larson seconded. Motion Carried.

3. **Monthly Financial Report**

City Administrator Grams said that there's not much to report as the numbers are down due to the weather. Hopefully June picks up, especially the launches and the transients. City Administrator Grams mentioned that he didn't have a chance to look into the fuel situation from the previous meeting and asked Harbormaster Cherny if he had a chance to look into. Harbormaster Cherny said that he and Secretary Lisa Rathke were able to look into it and that the fuel does come out right for the previous year and has nothing to do with the marina being in the red for 2012. Because we were so busy last year, the phenomena are that we had to spend more to make more. We went over \$21,000 in salaries trying to keep up with all the business. Electricity was over by \$6,500, water and sewer was over \$2,332 due to the excellent fishing and the demand on the fish cleaning station, \$5,000 over in supplies, and \$6,300 over in misc. operating.

Member Driscoll questioned why the donations were way off on the budget last year. Harbormaster Cherny said that the Lion's paid us the \$5,000 in 2012, but it was for 2011 and we have informed them that they are behind in payments and they plan to look into it. Member Driscoll was also wondering what the thinking was behind increasing the amount of money being brought in under slip rentals by \$20,000. Harbormaster Cherny simply said that he thought slip rentals would be better and increase in 2013. Member Driscoll was also curious as to what was included in other marina revenue on the budget. Harbormaster Cherny said that dock boxes, ladders, steps amongst other things are included in that number.

Member Matera, being absent from the last meeting, was curious as to how much of a dent the festivals made in our supply budget as the marina donates all supplies and if that was something that should be looked into since we did go over budget on supplies. Harbormaster Cherny said that it is at least \$500.00 in supplies every festival. Member Larson mentioned the possibility of raising our rates to transients on festival weekends. City Administrator Mark agreed that most places do that now. Harbormaster Cherny would recommend that we wait this year out and see what happens before we decide what to do about the supplies and raising transient rates during the festivals.

4. **Update On Slip Rentals**

Harbormaster Cherny said that as of right now we have 16 slips open in the main marina and we are down 10 slips in the North Slip as some charters have left and Great Lakes Marine doesn't rent as many slips.

5. **Update On Community Festivals**

City Administrator Grams said Harley Fest is pretty well figured out now. The Marina and Lake Street will stay open for tenants to park but the launch ramps will be closed at noon. Access to marina parking lots will be by Jackson Street to Lake Street as the other roads will be closed.

The Community Street Festival went well and Maritime Heritage Festival will be the same as always.

6. **Harbormaster's Report**

Harbormaster Cherny informed the Commission that the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen have donated a top of the line camera to the marina. The camera will be used by the public to view the lake conditions at any given time. The camera will sweep north and south but will only be able to view the lake and will not be able to view the marina or anything beyond that. We had thought that we would be able to use this camera for security, but it is one camera and it can do both functions, look at the lake and sweep the parking lots, but when we are sweeping the marina the public gets nothing. It cannot do both functions at the same time. Harbormaster Cherny proposed that the marina buy a

second camera for security purposes only, to be used by the police for crime investigation and would not be available to the public. The cost of the camera is roughly \$3,800 and can be paid for out of capital improvements. Member Herlache mentioned that we should plan on the cameras being a multi-year purchase, adding to the system as we see the need. He feels that one camera is not going to be enough. He also wanted to know if Harbormaster Cherny knew if the cameras could lower the cost of the insurance. Member Matera didn't believe that it would lower the insurance, but said that he could look into it.

Member Herlache had another question about insurance. He wanted to know what the liability was with having the life rings out on the break wall. City Administrator Grams said that the life rings and the ladders that the Water Safety Committee has been proposing will go before the council at the next meeting. Harbormaster Cherny said that he wants to go on record that he doesn't believe the ladders will last more than 6 months due to the rough conditions they will be under. They aren't sturdy ladders that are fixed and poured into concrete.

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that the Army Corps of Engineers will be here tomorrow to take a look at the break-wall deterioration. Anyone that would like to be a part of their visit is more than welcome to meet at the Marina office at 9am.

Harbormaster Cherny informed the commission that a 130' Hatteras Yacht owned by Tom Weichardt, who purchased the Mequon Country Club, may stay at the Marina year round in the North Slip on the North Wall. He would pay \$10,000 for the year. He will also be paying for the electrical upgrade needed for his boat. He will have his own electrical meter and will pay for the electric he uses as well. Once he leaves, it should take him about a month to get here.

Harbormaster Cherny said that the water is up to where it was in 2010. All of our deep draft sailboats were able to make it in including Bill Schanen. He is hopeful that it will continue to go up another 6 to 8 inches over summer. A surprise to the Marina the other day, we had 3 sea planes on their way to Michigan stop in at our fuel dock for fuel said Harbormaster Cherny

7. **Marina Tenants' Comments**

No Comments.

8. **Any Other Business That May Come Properly Before The Commission**

Member Driscoll asked Harbormaster Cherny if he reviewed the tenant's survey results that they brought up at the last meeting and if there was anything being done to address their concerns. Harbormaster Cherny went over the list with the Commission. He said that he doesn't feel that there is a real issue with parking except on really busy weekends and he has no control over the festivals and the general public parking in the marina parking lots. Response to the fuel dock is being rectified, but it would be helpful if the boater would call prior to leaving the slip that way we can have personnel on the dock waiting for them. Most of the time the boater doesn't call the Marina until they are right next to, or on the fuel dock. Line handling is something that can be taught, but also must be learned over time. We have had a lot of turnover in employees these last couple of years and the new kids are still learning. We will continue to train them on proper line handling. Member Driscoll thought maybe the Marina could put on classes on line handling for the employees and boaters that are unsure how to properly dock/tie a boat. Most of the employees are still new and are still learning how to use the new pump out system and frankly, so are we he said. It's just a matter of creating that vacuum. When it works, it works fine; it's just a matter of getting used to it. We do spray the electrical boxes for spiders a couple of times during the summer. The WIFI continues to be a work in progress. In order for us to get better coverage, we will have to upgrade to a system that costs over \$25,000. We were told that maybe if tenants put boosters on their boats, it may help. Member Larson mentioned that we should maybe carry a handful of these boosters at the Marina and sell them and Member Herlache thought we could possibly even rent them out.

Harbormaster Cherny said that the Marina could definitely look into doing that. As for cleaning up after the ducks and the geese he feels that is the responsibility of the boat owner as we don't have enough personnel to do that as well. The main problem is the general public who feed the ducks and geese. Ozaukee County does not have an ordinance against feeding birds. He said that he would like to see an ordinance passed prohibiting the feeding of wildlife. We are a *Clean Marina* and one of the parts of being a *Clean Marina* is putting up signage warning the public not to feed the wildlife. City Administrator Grams said that he will have the City Attorney look into it. Harbormaster Cherny said that he will continue to address their concerns.

9. **Adjournment**

Tony Matera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. and Dave Larson seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes have not been approved by the Harbor Commission