

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON  
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING  
Monday September 8, 2014, 7:00 P.M.  
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Tony Matera, Jerry Gruen, Bill Driscoll, Sue Knauer

Others Present

City Administrator Mark Grams

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny

Mayor Tom Mlada

1. **Roll Call: (Absent: Dave Larson, Jerry Baganz, and Dan Herlache)**
2. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting**  
Tony Matera made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion Carried.
3. **Monthly Financial Report**  
City Administrator Grams said that most of the numbers are down on the revenue side but a lot of the expenditures are down as well. If you compare the numbers to where we were last year, we are actually \$5,000 ahead as far as the net surplus for the year. The debt service payment has yet to be made. That will be coming out sometime in October/November. He said that he just received the audit report from last year and we came out ahead about \$15,000/\$16,000. Comparing last years and this year's numbers, he is hoping that we come out about the same for this year as well.  
Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that the Lion's Club still owes \$2,762 and will be paying that in the next week or so.
4. **Update On Slip Rentals, Boat Launches, And Transient Boaters**  
Harbormaster Cherny said that slip rentals remain the same. We have been down about 15 all year. Boat launches are down from 2270 last year to 1643 this year. Transient boaters are also down; we had 767 last year and 681 this year.
5. **Preparation Of 2015 Marina Budget**  
City Administrator Grams said that they will look at the expenditures over the last couple of years and average it out. On the revenue side launches and transients are a guess as we don't know what the weather and fishing will be like.  
Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that several marinas in the area are planning on raising their rates anywhere from 3-5% for next year. The commission needs to decide whether or not we want to raise rates for next year as we haven't raised rates for at least 4 years. Think about it before the next meeting he said.
6. **Update On Breakwater Improvement Project**  
City Administrator Grams said that the Army Corps is done putting the armor stone in. They have it all along the lake side on the north break wall and put patches of stone in on the marina side of the north wall.  
City Administrator Grams said that we have about \$750,000 in funds as of now to work on E, F, D, and D1, so basically the west end of the north break wall. We should be hearing on another grant in the next week or two. All grant monies coming in now will be for surface work.  
Mayor Mlada mentioned that the time frame for the surface work is sometime next spring/summer. We will hopefully have a significant improvement to our break wall by this time next year he said. He also wanted to thank the commission for the letter of support that they drafted which he took with him when he traveled to Washington DC last year.
7. **Harbormaster's Report**  
Harbormaster Cherny said that the marina finally got the Wi-Fi system upgraded, thanks to Bill Lundgren, and it seems to be working great! We needed to spend the money as all the Wi-Fi equipment was outdated. The new system cost roughly \$6,100. The pump out system is also running better. The plumbers who originally installed

the system screwed the rods for the pipe hangers through the rubber hose at the start of the piers. This caused small air leaks to form over the last couple of years causing the system to lose its vacuum from time to time. This has now been repaired as well he said.

**8. Marina Tenants' Comments**

Paul Markworth mentioned that the only concerns the Marina Tenants have had were regarding the Wi-Fi and the pump out system. He is happy to hear that everything has been upgraded or repaired. He will pass that along.

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

Mayor Mlada mentioned that he, along with Tourism Director Kathy Tank, went to Alpena Michigan for a NOAA National Marine Sanctuary workshop. For the first time in many years NOAA is accepting nominations to add another National Marine Sanctuary, whether it is one, two, three, has yet to be determined. There are a total of 14 National Marine Sanctuaries across the US. What was proposed to us was that we would have a much more robust application, instead of just being Port Washington, that it be regional with us, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Two Rivers. The area that they have outlined for our potential National Marine Sanctuary is 875 square miles. It would run from just south of Port Washington to just north of Two Rivers and be the first Regional National Marine Sanctuary. There are 33 known shipwrecks in this area, with two being the oldest in Wisconsin. While they were in Alpena, he said it was amazing to get the feel for what having a National Marine Sanctuary could mean for our community. They had 80,000 visitors come through their facility in Alpena last year which is pretty profound seeing that Alpena is a community of just 16,000. The economic impact is pretty significant.

Member Driscoll asked what the down side would be for the fisherman and boaters. Mayor Mlada said that you may not be able to fish directly over the wrecks as there may be mooring buoys placed over them. Recreational diving would still be allowed, but you would not be allowed to remove anything from the wrecks.

Mayor Mlada asked for a letter of support for the sanctuary from the Harbor Commission. The letters need to be in by October 1<sup>st</sup>. He mentioned that he will send Harbormaster Cherny a copy of the letter of support template and the marina can then disseminate to the commission members to look at. Member Matera thought that an original letter may carry more weight and mentioned that he would take the lead on writing the letter of support for the commission.

Member Driscoll mentioned that on this Friday night at 8pm Bill Moren is coming to talk about how things are going with the Explorium. They are also allowing anyone who would like to take a tour to do so on Saturday morning.

**10. Adjournment**

**Tony Matera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion Carried.**

Minutes not yet approved by Harbor Commission