

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
Monday June 8, 2015, 7:00 P.M.
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Jerry Baganz, Dan Herlache, Jerry Gruen, Bill Driscoll, Sue Knauer, Dave Larson, Tony Matera

Others Present

City Administrator Mark Grams

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny

Mayor Tom Mlada via phone conference

1. **Roll Call: (Absent: All Members Present)**

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**

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that monies are still coming in for slip fees. Season and daily launches are down due to the rain and cold. It seems like the season finally got started in the last week now that the weather and the fishing have gotten a little better. He hopes that it will continue to get better, but it is too early to get a significant feel on how things will go this year. Member Driscoll asked what Harbormaster Cherny attributes to the huge rise in parking passes and Harbormaster Cherny said it is due to tenants buying additional parking passes for their other vehicles.

City Administrator Grams wanted to explain what happened in 2014 that we ended up with a deficit of a little over \$99,000. There are a couple of main reasons he said. One was when the water got into the fuel tanks and all the work that had to be done there. The expenditures for repairing the fuel system and the damaged boats are \$55,268.78 alone. We did get money back from the insurance company totaling \$37,959.36. The other major item is the carryover of \$57,957.37 because we went with Cenex, the new fuel company. We no longer own the fuel that is in our tanks. Cenex owns the fuel and bills us as when we utilize it. Harbormaster Cherny added that for years we carried a surplus of about \$50,000, give or take, of asset money. When we switched companies, we no longer had that fuel to carry-over into the next year. Doug, the City Treasurer, needed to carry that as an expense of \$57,957 in 2014. That will only happen one time. Next year we won't have to worry about it. They call that Inventory Adjustment per Member Baganz.

So in reality, Member Matera said, we are only \$40,000 short. Yes, said Harbormaster Cherny, but had we not had this minor disaster with the fuel and the damage to the ice eaters and the docks, we probably wouldn't be looking at a deficit right now.

4. **Request For Financial Partnership With The Denis Sullivan**

Mayor Tom Mlada spoke to the commission about the City's partnership with Discovery World and the Denis Sullivan. Over the last several months we have been trying to generate the broadest support possible through broad based fundraising and marketing.

City Administrator Grams mentioned that the engagement dates for the Denis Sullivan are June 25-29, July 4-5, August 21-23, and the tentative dates of September 4-10 dependent on funding.

Mayor Mlada mentioned that he is hoping that the Commission would consider a \$3,000 gift in support of the Denis Sullivan effort.

Jerry Gruen believes that the Marina should be a part of it and could use money from the contingency fund. Mark Grams mentioned just taking the \$3,000 out of the \$12,000 Misc. budget. **Jerry Baganz mentioned that he also believes that this is a worthwhile effort for the community and the Marina as well and made a motion to approve the \$3,000 expenditure in support of the Denis Sullivan and Dan Herlache seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

5. **Update on Slip Rentals For 2015**

Harbormaster Cherny said that we have approximately 25 slips open. The problem is that we have a lot of bigger slips open. The smaller stuff is starting to go. We still have (2) 50' slips open. Although we did have a 60 footer

rent out the face of Pier 2 for the season as he is too wide to get into a 50' slip. We have been advertising in Great Lakes Boating Magazine, but it is expensive. They were kind enough to run our ad a second time for free.

Member Driscoll asked if we have generated any business from these ads. Harbormaster Cherny said not that he is aware of. Member Driscoll asked if the Marina has considered giving their tenants a referral fee for bringing in new customers. Harbormaster Cherny said that had been discussed in the past.

Member Baganz suggested giving tenants 15% off the slip you bring in to be applied to your following year's rental fee rather than a straight monetary amount of \$250 or \$500. This way they are getting a percentage of the slip size they are bringing in whether it is a 30' slip or a 50' slip.

Mayor Mlada added that the message of the program should be spun in a positive manner. We don't want to look like we are desperate he said. Maybe Member Matera with his marketing background could help put something together.

Member Tony Matera made a motion that we adapt a 15% discount on a slip you bring in for a buddy/referral program. The discount will be applied to your following years slip renewal. Member Bill Driscoll seconded. Motion carried.

Member Larson wanted to mention that maybe the Mayor or Member Matera should review it to make sure that the message is clear. Keep it positive like the Mayor said, and that we are doing this as an appreciation event.

6. Approve Hiring Seasonal Employees

Harbormaster Cherny said that he interviewed the list of employees over the last couple of weeks and would like them approved for hire. **Tony Matera made a motion to approve the hiring of the seasonal employees listed. Jerry Baganz seconded. Sue Knauer, Jerry Gruen, Bill Driscoll, Jerry Baganz, and Tony Matera all signified by saying Aye and both Dave Larson and Dan Herlache Abstained as they each know one of the employees on the list. The Ayes have it. Motion Carried.**

7. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that the marina will be putting on a celebration this Saturday for National Marina Day under the blue tent. Free hot dogs, soda, and chips will be handed out between 11am and 2pm. June 11th is the Double-handed Sailboat Race and June 17th is the Disabled Vets Fish Outing. City Administrator Grams mentioned that some NFL players will be going out on charter boats this Friday morning as part of a charity event. It will be covered by Fox 6 news. Harbormaster Cherny said that an event not occurring this June is the Chicago in water boat show. There isn't enough draw for it, so it was cancelled and will tie in with the boat show in January instead. Just goes to show where the boating industry is going he said.

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that the fish cleaning station has been repaired with all new teeth. The cost was approximately \$8,000. He is hoping that the Lion's Club and the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen will donate money to offset the cost as they are always looking for good projects to donate to.

Member Gruen mentioned that he has heard from a few people that the WIFI is not working properly.

Harbormaster Cherny said that no one has stopped in the office and told him that they are having problems with it. He will look into it.

8. Marina Tenants' Comments

Marina Tenants' Association representative Paul Markworth mentioned that he has heard from several tenants that they are concerned about losing the Victor's parking lot and the North Slip parking lot and the added pressure that will put on the Main Marina parking lot. Mayor Mlada said that the Main Street Design Committee is working on a plan to effectively mitigate the loss of parking spots. They want to come up with a plan to enhance the marina experience by making the flow and functionality of the parking lot better than it is now. They aren't there yet, but they are working on it he said.

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

No Comments.

10. Adjournment

Tony Matera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm and Dave Larson seconded. Motion Carried.