

HARRISVILLE HARBOR COMMISSION
Regular Meeting August 6, 2009

Chairman Laatz called the regular meeting of the Harrisville Harbor Commission to order in the City Office at 7:00 p.m. on August 6, 2009.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Art Laatz, Vice-Chairman Robert Sanderson, Secretary Robert Schemanske, Treasurer J. Michael Crick, Commissioners: Marion Tartaglia, Neal Gehring, and Daniel Bruske
ALSO PRESENT: Harbormaster Jim Hamather, Assistant Harbormaster Jerry Brown, Bookkeeper Rose Koenig, and Recording Secretary Jeannette Schultz
GUESTS: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present .

Minutes of the July 2, 2009 HHC minutes were read. MOTION: Tartaglia/Gehring that the minutes be accepted as read. Minutes were adopted.

Financial Reports:

July Financial Reports were reviewed. MOTION: Schemanske/Tartaglia that reports be accepted as presented. Motion carried. Reports adopted and placed on file pending audit.

Koenig presented an up-to-date report and stated that there is a current balance of \$26,962.41. All bills are paid, except reimbursement to the City for Liability Insurance (\$8,022) which was due in May. Fuel expense for August is expected to be approximately \$38,000. She believes that our balance after payment of 3rd Quarter Taxes will give us a good sense of our actual financial position for the year. She estimates that a \$10,000 balance at the end of the boating season should be adequate to meet expenses through the winter.

Committee Reports: Finance - Nothing Operations - Nothing Personnel - Nothing

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

City Council s Action on Request for Relief:

Chairman Laatz reported that the City Council has granted a deferral of our note payments for the next year, with interest due and payable in a manner to be worked out between the Mayor and the Commission. The Commissioners expressed gratitude to Mayor Dobis and the City Council for granting the much needed extension of payments.

Grant Report:

Bruske reported that an application requesting a \$3,000 advertising grant from the Northeast Michigan Community Foundation has been submitted. An acknowledgment of receipt of the application has been received by the Commission. The Foundation will meet on September 8th to review applications and make decisions on grants to be awarded.

Central Reservations System (CRS) Contract:

Chairman Laatz reported on an email dated July 23, 2009 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) concerning non-compliance of a CRS contract with the Harbor Commission. The email was sent to Harbormaster Hamather, who forwarded it to the members of the Commission. Laatz mailed a letter dated Aug. 5th in reply to the MDNR explaining the confusion generated from the email. Upon investigation of the matter, it was discovered that the current Commissioners, and former Chair, Ronald Skiba, were unaware that an addendum extending the original contract had been signed in April of 2008. The letter in response expressed concern that the contract was not handled through the HHC and requested that, in the future, notification of any communications pertaining to the operation of Harrisville Harbor be sent to the HHC Chairman. However, the letter acknowledged that, in the best interest of the City and the Commission, there is a need to honor this contract. The April 2008 addendum expires October 31, 2011.

Harbormaster Hamather described his experience with the CRS Program as disappointing from the standpoint of a cost/benefit factor. He stated that the Program slows down the process of registering customers and creates extra expense to both the boaters and the harbors..

Crick's understanding is that the CRS program, originally designed for State Parks, is not compatible with boaters when weather becomes a factor as it affects their planned stops during their travels along the lake. He stated that the program isn't appropriate for boaters.

Assistant Harbormaster Brown added that the employees who were sent to the training sessions came back with negative feedback. They were told by those conducting the training sessions that the sessions did not apply to harbors.

Gehring suggested a two-pronged approach. First, notify Gov. Granholm stating the deficiencies of the program, such as cost; inappropriateness; and non-effectiveness. Second, ask for input from the Small Harbor Coalition.

After much discussion, a decision was made by the Commission to:

1. Contact the Mayor.
2. Devise a plan of recourse.
3. Contact attorney for advice.
4. Abide by the advice of legal counsel.

A committee consisting of Laatz; Gehring; Crick; Hamather; and Brown will prepare documents and take appropriate steps. It was stressed that, in the meantime, we must abide by the terms of the contract.

Bylaws:

Discussion of the proposed Bylaw changes were deferred until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Harbormaster Report - Hamather reported on vandalism that took place on July 28th. An ice suppression compressor was pushed into the water. It has been retrieved and is not believed to be ruined. Original cost was approximately \$6,500. A police report has been filed and the insurance company has been contacted. It is currently at Alpena Electric Company to be dried out and restored. The total amount of repair expense is not yet known. Repair expense of \$750 has been incurred thus far.

Assistant Harbormaster Report - Brown is pleased with this season's operations; employees; and customers. He announced that the annual boaters party will be held on August 15th at the Harbor.

Round Table:

Bruske asked how much information is on the HHC website. Answer: Financials & Minutes .
Gehring asked about the minutes posted on the website prior to approval. Answer: Pending Adoption

Adjournment: MOTION: Crick/Sanderson to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
N. Jeannette Schultz
Recording Secretary