

**MINUTES
NOME PORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 18th, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Nome Port Commission was called to order at 6:37 pm by Chairman Lean at the Public Safety Building located on the Greg Kruschek Ave.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Smithhisler (zoom); Lean; West; Henderson; Rowe; Sheffield (zoom); McLarty (zoom)

Also Present: Joy Baker, Port Director (zoom)

In the audience: James Mason; Cathy Rubano; Ken Morton, NJUS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman West asked for a motion to approve the agenda:

Motion to approve made by Henderson, seconded by McLarty.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Lean; West; Henderson; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Feb 18th, 2021
Regular Meeting

Motion made by Henderson, seconded by McLarty to approve minutes;

At the Roll Call

Ayes: West; Henderson; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Howard Farley of Farley Marine, LLC announced the purchase of a new 42' crew boat to add to their fleet operating out of Nome. This will be primarily used for offshore provisioning and crew transfers on the Nome roadstead. The vessel will arrive on a barge, and launched soon after landing.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 21-03-09 Letter to Mayor from USACE on O&M Dredging Bridge Work (SHPO)
- 21-03-11 Launch Ramp Bid Opening Documents
- 21-03-15 City of Nome Public Notice Calendar
- 21-03-16 USDOT INFRA Grant Application Strategy – Snake River Moorage

Discussion:

- PD Baker gave a brief overview of the USACE O&M dredging work and the options for developing methods and means to deal with the sediment under the Causeway Bridge and adjacent sand on West Beach.
- Overview of the recent bid opening for the Launch Ramp Repair that took place on March 11th. Two bids were received for the project construction with STG being the lowest, responsible bidder, with the Common Council

approving award of construction to STG. A more detailed schedule and project site limits will be available after a pre-construction meeting is held with the contractor.

- An application for USDOT grant funding of the Snake River Moorage Facility will be submitted Friday Mar 19.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

Gay Sheffield commented that the Port Commissioners like to hear updates on the port expansion plan and a general overview on where there is progress so they can answer questions from the public when asked. PD Baker commented she would continue to provide an overview during her PD report, as well as share significant news as soon as possible.

Lean commented that there is a statewide disaster drill across Alaska and one of the legs of that exercise is in Nome. They most likely want to ramp up the EOC and generally learn the basics of working in Nome. He believes Nome gets great benefit from participating in and providing feedback on these exercises when they occur.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

HM Stotts provided an update to the group on spring opening tasks such as;

- Removing snow from the causeway road, ditches and dock faces to allow access and promote ground thaw.
- Work with PWR to re-profile causeway ditch and patch cutouts on lower Port Road potholes.
- Remove all items on the West bank of the Upper IP and bring in material to address settling in the area.
- Utilize PWR shop to warm up SBH ladders that need handrails replaced.
- Evaluate GARCO building condition, improvement costs, revenue return and how to capture the most benefits.
- Collaborate with local fuel line contractor to address various maintenance tasks on the Causeway fuel lines including; prep for thickness gauging at header; participate in visual inspection of liner bags and coatings under bridge; construct new causeway gate; update public bathroom wall; install safety ladders on floating docks, and install red flashing light at causeway to comply with USCG 154 facilities mandate.

Discussion:

- Henderson asked if the Port has experienced much settlement in the GARCO building, HM Stotts commented yes, some on the West wall but not much.

PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (verbal)

PD Baker provided an update on where the City stands on the Arctic Deep Draft Port project, stating;

- This is a very slow moving target and more info will be provided as it is received Port staff will continue to keep the commission informed as information is available.
- The Alaska Corps District just received the federal design funds about 3-4 weeks ago; construction funding does require separate authorization by Congress, so those funds are not yet allocated.
- The City of Nome is looking at a variety of options for our portion of the funding including partnering agreements and grant opportunities, along with state/federal investment – nothing tangible to share yet.
- The Alaska Delegation is fully aware of the project costs, and remain engaged on funding requirements.
- The Launch Ramp Replacement Project was authorized for award to STG by the City Council – providing the contractor complies with all grant agency and contract submittal requirements.
- The City will be submitting a grant to USDOT on Friday 19 April for the Snake River Development, with \$200k in cash commitment from Nome Eskimo Community, who is serving as co-applicant on the application.
- The West Nome Tank Farm property conveyance is still delayed, but the City continues to work with the USAF on the slow conveyance process.
- The Port Road project is still working through the final draft of the design/specs for stakeholder review.

Discussion:

- Sheffield asked what the timeline is for the design phase and if the City's portion of funding would be due at that time. PD Baker commented that the design phase has just started so the USACE will soon be identifying a project team, hold a design charrette, etc. and the process should fully begin in April.
- There is a proposal to possibly phase the project but that has not yet been determined.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

CAP 107 Onshore Dredge Material Disposal- Recommended sites.

Discussion:

Group discussion on locations for dredge material disposal and possible uses for the material as fill. The general consensus was that we should be able to dispose all of the material from the 107 project in the Industrial area west of the Snake River.

Motion:

The following motion was moved by McLarty and seconded by West; the Port Commission recommends that the City advise the USACE we can accept up to 170,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the CAP 107 project for beneficial use on land in port industrial areas west of the Snake River.

At the Roll Call:

Ayes: Henderson; Rowe; Sheffield; McLarty; Smithhisler; Lean; West

Nays:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Smithhisler commented that it sounds like it will be a busy summer at the Port and was wondering when they were looking to take the ramp offline for replacement. The general timeframe is July-Sept but we are looking to narrow that window down soon.

Sheffield commented that there is info from Russia that 5 nuclear barges are being brought into the Pevek area to provide a whole lot of power to that Russian region. This is about 400 miles NW from Big Diomed.

Lean commented that the Inner Harbor needs are more immediate than anything and is happy we are making progress on those items like the ramp replacement right away.

McLarty commented that Nome will have the first ever Disk Golf tournament on the sea ice, Sunday at 2pm. McLarty funded the event and course, some decorations were provided by Lean.

Henderson commented that he is always encouraged to hear local businesses investing more into the Port so is happy to hear from Howard Farley. Also commented that we should set more strict guidelines for ramp use for the future to help prevent any further damage from unintended uses.

Rowe commented it was a good meeting with a lot of good info and that the use of haul out plans seems to have helped port staff oversee and scrutinize the use of those ramps.

West commented that with the haul out ramp being under repair, we will need to provide alternate haul out locations for vessels to use for emergencies and late launches.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Henderson for adjournment 7:24 pm.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 15th day of April 2021.

ATTEST:



Joy Baker, Port Director


Jim West, Chairman