

CITY OF HARBOR SPRINGS  
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES 15 July, 2009

Chairman Jim Bartlett called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Harbor Springs City Hall, Council Chambers, 160 Zoll Street, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

1. **Roll Call and Verification of a Quorum**

Present: Chairman Jim Bartlett, Vice Chairman; Bill McCullough, Commissioners; Yvonne DeWindt, Tom Graham Jr., Keith McGlaughlin, Jim Offield, Fred Rachwitz, Jane Ramer and Dick Schiller

Absent: Commissioner Al Dika.

Also Present: Michael Johnson; Harbormaster, Tom Richards; City Manager.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of regular meeting, held June 17, 2009 was made by Commissioner Schiller and supported by Offield. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of the commission.

3. **Public Comment and Correspondence**

No public comment or correspondence was offered.

4. **Old Business**

(A) GLOS Buoy

Chairman Bartlett provided an update on the status of the weather / environmental monitoring buoy, noting that the construction of the buoy had been completed and it was scheduled to be launched for testing and calibration within the week.

He also noted that the anchor and attaching hardware are ready and will be placed at the designated location within the next few days.

Also discussed were additional donors that had responded, including the City of Charlevoix and individual members of the Little Traverse Bay Yacht Club. Bartlett stated that eight donors had committed to support the Buoy fund.

City Manager Richards reported that buoy permit applications had been filed with the Michigan MDEQ and the Coast Guard and both applications had been acknowledged by both authorities.

Discussion followed regarding the final latitude and longitude where the buoy was expected to be located.

(B) Harbormaster Update

Harbormaster Johnson advised the Commission that the new navigational buoys had been deployed near the east entrance to the Walstrom Marina.

Johnson reported that the marina had been booked to full capacity from July 1<sup>st</sup> through the following week and that business had been stronger than anticipated given the marginal summer weather. He reported that the total fees through July 15 had been \$50,600, compared to \$59,900 for the same period in 2008. He noted that June business had been far below expectations, but \$30,000 in revenues had been generated in just the last three weeks.

Johnson discussed that in the seasonal mooring chain inspection, the crew had discovered some buoy chains that had nearly worn through, and that replacements were being installed.

He reported that, to date, only 49 boats had signed up for the regatta and that most of the visiting boats will be at the municipal docks.

Also discussed was the parking permit program for transient boaters which had been approved by the Harbor Springs City Council. Johnson said demand for the new passes had been encouraging.

Discussion followed about the worn mooring chains and the current inspection process. Johnson stated that the established procedure was to inspect one third of the field each year on a rotating basis. He noted that the worn chains were found to be common galvanized chain. Those chains had been replaced with the higher grade marine chain, rated for mooring applications. Johnson said that some of the chains had worn quickly, possibly because they had dragged on the bottom and been rubbed against the corners of the anchors.

In further discussion, Johnson agreed that a review of the inspection reports was needed to determine how quickly the condition of some chains had deteriorated.

Johnson also discussed the status of renovations planned for the boater's and public restroom facilities in the Harbormaster building.

He mentioned that he had requested revised quotes from three renovation contractors and that each contractor was being asked to update their quotes, assuming that new tile could be applied over the existing surfaces, eliminating the

need to remove the existing tile. Discussion followed regarding the redefined scope of work that had been provided to the bidding contractors. Johnson indicated that those revised bids would be provided for the Commission's review at the August meeting.

Johnson responded to a question about a reported fuel spill earlier in the month. He explained that a yacht had been unaware of fuel and lubricating oil in their bilge which had been inadvertently pumped overboard. Discussion followed about the containment efforts that had been used, and how quickly the spill had been resolved. Also discussed were the spill response plans at the marina, and the specialized equipment that was provided by Conway Towing.

It was established that Conway Towing had been available to respond whenever they had been needed. Also discussed was the effectiveness of the oil cleanup chemical that was applied by the fire authority crews. It was discussed that the City Marina should investigate having it's own facilities for the chemical used to facilitate oil spill cleanup.

Richards asked about a chemical spill response plan. Johnson responded that the City, Walstrom and Irish all have a written program that is posted.

It was agreed that the HarborMaster would research the availability of the Conway Towing spill equipment, and the cost of having a similar equipment available to serve the Harbor Springs marinas.

5. **New Business**

None was offered.

6. **Open Forum**

No topics were offered

7. **Meeting Schedule**

Next meeting scheduled for August 12, 2009 at 4:00 PM

8. **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 PM.

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Thomas Richards, City Manager