



*Division of Ports and Harbors Advisory Council
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PORT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Brad Cook, Chair
Mike Donahue, Vice-Chair
Erik Anderson
Bill McQuillen
Chris Holt
Chris Snow (arrived 6:07 pm)
Chris Ward
Myles Greenway, Assistant Director, PDA-DPH

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

2. APPROVE MINUTES

McQuillen made a motion to approve the April 10, 2024 minutes, Anderson seconded. No discussion, a vote was taken, all members were in favor and the motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT-

Roger Groux introduced himself as a past a member of the Council for 12 years and Chair for 6 years. Groux spoke on his concerns about what's been happening, and started during Covid and has gotten worse. Bottom line is the PDA seems to only be concerned with Rye Harbor and the Port Advisory Council's time spent discussing Rye Harbor, which is an insignificant part of the entire operation. We've got a major Port here, the Market St. Terminal, that has been undergoing enhancements that are about 65% completed and once done will greatly increase the capacity in the laydown area. We were under orders during COVID to provide support to the Navy Yard and to not shut the pier down under any circumstances. The Port of Portsmouth is strategically important to the people of NH because almost all of the heating oil, asphalt, and salt comes through the Port. Foreign Trade-Zones are also a large part of the Port structure. Groux mentioned that the Port Committee meeting minutes have not been approved for several months because they keep getting postponed by the Chair of the Committee. Concerns during those meetings always seem to surround Rye Harbor, Groux added, Rye Harbor is the tail wagging the dog. PDA needs to figure out their priorities. Groux commented on Port Director Marconi's administrative leave, he has known him for over 12 years, and found him to be a totally honorable man who works hard, far exceeding anything he needs to do, especially regarding getting funding for Port projects and moving things along. What is happening to him now is political, and any pending charges would have no basis. Groux suggested the Council consider taking a vote of confidence in Geno.

Wendy Lull, for full disclosure she is a resident of Berwick ME, but is here as President of the Propellor Club of Portsmouth, commented that they have no information on what happened with Geno so it's difficult for the club to take a position. Geno is a Board Member of the Propellor Club. There are over 100 members and several significant sponsors so without knowing the situation the Club is in an awkward position and with that the Club encourages clarification as soon as possible.

4. FINANCE REPORT

The report FY ending March 31, 2024 was included in the meeting packet. Suzy Anzalone, PDA Finance Director, went over the report with the Council. Operating revenue and expenses are operating under budget. Wages and Benefits are also under budget. Currently, the net operating loss is at about \$47,000 YTD. Business Unit analysis is also provided. Anzalone explained the rest of the report in detail. Donahue noted that that the net income went up by another \$100,000 for year to date, in other words, the Port has \$100,000 less of a loss that it had budgeted for, and that is important for the PDA to take note of since the PDA Board approved the budget with a projected loss and there is substantially less of a loss than what was budgeted. The Port Council believes that they expect to come out of the year with a positive net income with the expected ships and fuel system repairs. Further discussion included the construction projects listed on the last page of the report, the figures that make up those numbers can be found on the Statement of Net Position page.

5. PISCATAQUA RIVER VESSEL TRANSIT REPORT

Holt reported that there were a couple of double moves and one triple move in the month of April. Discussion included the hard times that hit the ship "Genco Picardy" they were attacked by a drone in the Red Sea, then they had equipment problems, so they had to be moved off the Sprague dock, they went to anchor for 3 days, went back to Sprague, and had to be moved again (temporarily) to allow an oil ship to come in. They were finally able to offload their cargo and sail out. This type of situation really affects the crew morale. There was also a tallow ship that came in, which we haven't seen in a couple years.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Greenway reported on the following From the April 18, 2024 PDA Board meeting:

i. Reports:

1. Morton Salt, License and Operating Agreement, last of 3 one-year options
2. Commercial Mooring for Hire Applications
3. Commercial Mooring Transfers
 - a. Steaker Charters to Kirkland
 - b. Nudd to Rydbeck
 - c. Tirone to Levine
 - d. Carter to Elwell
4. Tasha Fuel Right of Entry, diesel fuel deliveries to vessels(6-month ROE)

ii. Approvals:

1. Star Island Right of Entry
2. Shoals Marine Lab Right of Entry
3. Granite State Minerals, first of 3 one-year options
4. Diesel Direct Right of Entry, diesel fuel deliveries to vessels
5. Hampton Harbor Tackle, Right of Entry, storage cooler
6. Riverside & Pickering, Rye Harbor, Gangway purchase
7. Lakes Region Environmental, Rye Harbor fuel system repairs

Greenway also reported on replacing the truck scale at the Market St. Terminal. RFP's were received and are under review. The gangway in Rye is scheduled to be installed May 13th. Work on the fuel systems at Rye and Hampton will begin during the first couple of weeks in May. The Division is gathering information for a potential DHHS grant for Security Camera replacement and Security fencing. The PFP Building Concept Study draft has been received and is under review. The final report will be received by May 15th. Greenway attended the Governor and Council meeting in Concord today, and the Division was approved for ARPA funds in the amount of \$2,000,000 for Rye and PFP. The Functional Replacement project is waiting on the ACOE permit. The second-round of bids won't go out until all permits are in place. Will keep an eye on the current permits to make sure they don't expire. Further discussion on ARPA funds, they are held at the State treasury, permitting process may delay the progress on the projects, especially in Rye.

7. NEW BUSINESS-

No new business

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Business Development/FTZ- Donahue spoke about Off Shore Wind, handed out a graphic showing the newest lease areas. There are about 1 million acres to be leased out, this should generate about 15GW of power and has the potential to provide energy for about 5 million homes. The comment period ends on July 1st. The date of the lease areas bidding will be announced after the comment period and is on track to occur in the 4th quarter. Further discussion on the requirements for the bidders which includes a \$2 million deposit (per lease area) just to enter a bid. The Propellor Clubs next event is May 16th and Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Florentino will be the speaker. The annual lobster bake is being held on June 21st at the Coast Guard station. Anderson indicated that the fisheries groups have submitted comments whenever they can regarding the OSW efforts. He believes that most transmission lines will probably go to Maine and Massachusetts. Once the leases are acquired, the investment for research and development will proceed (paid for by the winning bidder). Onshoring of the power will be determined during the R & D periods. Holt commented that he believes the OSW projects will be more detrimental for the maritime industry and marine life than anything else afloat. Environmental organizations have received funding from OSW developers and seem to have gone silent on the subject. Anderson spoke about a compensation plan for any fishing businesses impacted by the OSW activity. Discussion on the failed OSW lease areas in New Jersey. Anderson mentioned again that onshoring transmission lines could involve having to install "cooling

stations” which will use and recycle back into the ocean 4 to 7 million gallons per day, water is taken in at ambient temperature and released at a warmer temperature, also the water will have chlorine added to it as part of the cooling process.

- Dredging- Holt reported that there is a dredge meeting on May 15th. The ACOE have replaced the buoys in the Piscataqua River. The large rock in the middle of the Turning Basin is still there, no news about plans to remove it. Having the rock there reduces the depth clearance to 34’ instead of 36’ MLLW.
 - Fisheries- Anderson said local fishing industry is getting their gear ready. The Portsmouth Fish Pier construction is beginning soon, with that the users were told to remove their gear off the pier by May 1st.
 - Government- McQuillen reported that local and state agencies met with FEMA regarding the January storms and requests for public assistance are due within the next 2 weeks.
 - Moorings- Snow mentioned Moorings for Hire and Mooring Transfers are listed in the packet.
 - PDA- Cook reported on the April 18th PDA meeting, at which Geno was placed on paid administrative leave during a Non-Public session. As a result, he was left with a series of questions and after discussion with a couple of the other Council members, and in line with Article 8, Section 1 of the PAC Bylaws he drafted a letter to PDA Chair, which you all have a copy of. He received a response letter back from the AG’s office yesterday, copies were handed out to the members and content was discussed. Further discussion on the Right to Know Law in NH, and how it could help. Holt asked if the PDA Board private meeting is recorded? Minutes are required to be maintained; however, they did vote to seal those minutes, and not sure if/when those minutes would or could be released. Also discussed was what the process should be (going forward) for the Council Chair writing a letter without consulting the Council members, if we follow Robert’s Rules, procedures would indicate consultation is required before writing a letter. It was mentioned the letter was written with the intent of getting information for tonight’s meeting. Also a concern was raised about the statements made in the letter against one particular board member, if they were accusations or factual. Chair stated they were factual statements and can be proven. Additionally, the concern is more procedural than what is written in the letter. Discussion on the Channel 9 news clip.
 - Recreational Piers- The ramp in Rye has been resurfaced. Bauer seems to be spreading out in the parking lot a bit and it should be addressed with him now before the busy season ramps up. Chair mentioned that it is a cooperative effort down there, and its all about how each other responds to things and help prevent conflict. Teamwork.
9. OLD BUSINESS- Holt made a comment that he’s been on the river for 26 years and remembers how disorganized and unproductive the Port of Portsmouth was. He discussed what Geno has done for the Port, he’s made it a very productive, viable, safe, and a desirable place for commercial work to come. Holt made a motion to have a “Vote of Confidence” for Geno to keep his position as Port Director. Snow seconded the motion.

Discussion included the great job that Geno has done here to make the Port an attractive place to be. He's done a great job at managing all of the bits and pieces of managing the Port. Cook reported that he's known Geno for his entire term here. In his opinion, all 3 of the other facilities, that were taken over from State Parks, would have failed without Geno's guidance and his and the staff efforts. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

10. PRESS QUESTIONS –

No Press present.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

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