

**MICHIGAN CITY PORT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**November 15, 2021**

**TIME & PLACE**

The regular meeting of the Michigan City Port Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Port Authority board room.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board President Sam Ferguson presided. Board members in attendance included Amanda Beutner, Chad Childers, Socrates Gray, John Haynes, Bruce Manner and Dan Messina. Harbormaster Tim Frame and Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke were also in attendance.

Attorney Joe Zaknoen was unable to attend this meeting.

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Guests in attendance included Jim & Shari Bohac, Michael Halpin, Gordon & Kathy Sheely and Thomas Wodrich (***WPM** slip holders*).

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Mr. Bohac commented that some maintenance issues and amenities were lacking this year such as the security with unlocked gates, grills in need of repair and the excess bird droppings along the piers and walkways.
- Mr. Sheely reiterated the problem with the birds and inquired if the board had any involvement with the **DNR** and **USCG** to come up with some type of deterrent using a sound device along with trimming the trees located behind the Coast Guard station. He went on to question the lack of available attendants at the fuel dock and asked if there was any intention to acquire additional staff next season.
- Mr. Halpin scrutinized the board's decision process in coming up with the rate increases for 2022 stating it would appear to be an approximate 4%, however the slip extension fee went up 50% which seemed a bit excessive; in addition, in reviewing previous minutes it did not appear as though the rates were approved prior to the bills being mailed out to boaters as there were no attachments to indicate the amount of these increases and questioned this procedure.
- Mr. Wodrich recapped the bird issue stating not only was it a messy situation but also an unhealthy one and would like to find a way to keep it under control.

Mr. Ferguson thanked the guests for their comments informing them these matters would be reviewed and taken under advisement and someone would get back to them with answers to their questions.

**MINUTES**

Upon motion made by Bruce Manner, seconded by Socrates Gray, the board approved the minutes to the previous meeting.

## **REPORT FROM THE HARBORMASTER**

Harbormaster Tim Frame reported on the following:

- *Donkersloot & Sons* have removed concrete panels long the 700 & 800 docks to provide wiring access to the sub-stations for the electrical upgrades.
- *Larsen-Danielson* is making progress re-decking the 100 W. Dock.
- Finalizing haul-outs at Trail Creek; taking longer this year as we had quite a few winter storage additions.
- December 4<sup>th</sup> is the *Festival of Lights* celebration at Washington Park; the staff is completing installation of our Christmas lights. The Park Department intends to bring back more of the events they used to have such as the horse and buggy rides along with the annual chili cook-off.
- *Stanley Security* has made progress in updating the software on the server and the reader for the 200-dock gate has been replaced; still some issues with the 600/700 gate but that appears to be an **IT** issue as the system was switched over to an internet connection.
- In reference to the bird situation, Harbormaster Frame informed the group that he has spoken with the **DNR** who referred him to the *Fish & Wildlife Commission*, the *Coast Guard* has no position on the matter. As the cormorants fall under the *Migratory Bird Act* we must look into non-lethal remedies; should we exhaust all avenues and the situation becomes worsened, only then will the commission consider drastic actions.

## **REPORT FROM ASSISTANT HARBORMASTER**

Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke had nothing to report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. On behalf of the ***Budget and Financial Oversight Committee***, Socrates Gray reviewed the claims dockets to be paid:

- **MCPA** Payment register = \$ 66,574.28
- **MCPA EFT** register = \$ 0.00
- **MCPA** Capital Improvements = \$ 100,192.98

Upon motion made by Socrates Gray, seconded by Dan Messina, the board unanimously approved all bills to be paid; total docket in the amount of \$166,767.26 as presented.

- A proposal for 2022 salary and wage increases was submitted previously for review. Mr. Gray recommended they be accepted by the board.

Upon motion made by Socrates Gray, seconded by John Haynes, the board unanimously approved the salary and wage increase proposal as presented.

- A proposal for the 2022 budget had been previously submitted for review indicating an overall increase of \$171,900.00.

Upon motion made by Socrates Gray, seconded by Chad Childers, the board unanimously approved the 2022 budget as presented.

2. On behalf of the **Claims and Insurance Committee**, John Haynes informed the board the insurance bids for 2022 will be submitted in December once all information requested has been obtained.
3. On behalf of the **Port Operations, Personnel and Marina Policy Committee**, Sam Ferguson reported on the following:
  - Working with Mr. Gray and Mr. Haynes on the Boater Communications committee to implement better communications between the staff, boaters and the board when handling various complaints and policy issues to work towards a resolution.
  - Regarding the vision and concept plan received from the Mayor to implement an activity and sailing center to revitalize the Hobie Cat Racing, we will work on a direction with the City events director to promote tourism in support of local businesses.
  - As Atty. Zaknoen was unable to attend, Mr. Ferguson informed the board that he was about 90% completed with preparations for conducting ZOOM meetings when necessary.
4. On behalf of the **Boater Communications and Special Events Committee**, Dan Messina informed the board he had spoken with Vic Tieri of *Harbor Country Adventures* who expressed his gratitude to Harbormaster Frame and the staff who have always been accommodating; said he had another great season.
  - In reference to Jermain Miller, owner of *Cool Runnings* restaurant who had also expressed an interest in starting a dinner cruise yacht next year, Mr. Tieri offered his assistance in helping him get underway.
5. On behalf of the **Master Planning and Special Projects Committee**, Bruce Manner had nothing to report.
6. On behalf of the **Advertising and Public Relations Committee**, Amanda Beutner informed the board that along with Mr. Messina, they planned to meet with the City event director in the hopes of involving the marina with more interactions at Washington Park.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Messina informed the board he was still working with Mrs. Pawlicke to plan a holiday luncheon for the staff but were running into issues on deciding a date.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Ferguson announced the nominating committee for the 2022 slate of officers as follows:

- ✓ Mr. Bruce Manner (*Chairman*)
- ✓ Mr. Dan Messina
- ✓ Mr. Socrates Gray

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by John Haynes, seconded by Amanda Beutner, the board adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Accepted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Frame, Harbormaster

Respectfully submitted, \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Messina, Board Secretary

Approved On: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Ferguson, Board President

There were no attachments for this meeting  
Minutes prepared by Kristen N. Winkelstern