

HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2009
6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ald. Dean Graunke
Bernard Brennan
Jack Resch
James Anderson
David Ross
Jim Ruffolo (arrived at 6:37 p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Huck, Harbor Master
Jodi Scott, Secretary

Approval of the Minutes from September 18, 2008 Meeting

D. Ross made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2008 meeting. J. Resch seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

There was a question as to the number of members needed to form a quorum. M. Huck consulted with Jennifer Hudon. Jennifer informed M. Huck that the quorum is five.

TEA Grant project update

M. Huck informed the Commission that the TEA Grant between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Tower Tech/Broadwind complex was applied for and granted. With the current economic condition, Broadwind Energies made formal notification to decline the project. Since Broadwind Energies are not putting up their portion of the project, the money will not be granted. M. Huck stated that the money would certainly be used elsewhere and may not be available at a later date.

Possible designation as “Federal Maritime Highway”

M. Huck informed the Commission of an economic development group in Manistee, Michigan that is working with a company named Lake Bridge, who is interested in moving freight across Lake Michigan by barge to Manitowoc. They became aware of the Federal Maritime Highway Program which is designed to relieve congestion around metropolitan areas, reduce emissions and promote the concept of short sea shipping. The City of Manitowoc feels that it would be beneficial to support the application for Maritime Highway status.

Should Lakebridge move forward, this would give the Harbor a viable opportunity for a Harbor Assistance Grant to take down the remainder of the cement building and construct a freight handling yard.

The main concern the city has is the amount of semi-trailers that would be off loaded and then travel through the city and possible impact on carferry service.

J. Anderson asked if we support this application, are we committed in any way. M. Huck stated that we are not.

J. Resch made a motion to support the Federal Maritime Highway. D. Graunke seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Business Proposal from Lake Bridge (Manistee Michigan)

M. Huck shared a power point presentation prepared by Lake Bridge outlining their business plan and marketing approach. A representative from Lake Bridge is coming to meet with the City in February to discuss the plan.

2008 Bridge and Harbor Statistics

The Commission was given and reviewed a printout showing the total tonnage of shipping for 2008 which was increased by the addition of the eight vessels from the Busch complex; without these shipping would have been down. The amount of stone shipped out has dropped significantly for 2008. All other statistics were ordinary.

Great Lakes Recreational Boating Report for UACE

M. Huck shared with the Commission the Great Lakes Recreational Boating Report. The key section is the direct impact of the Great Lakes Charter fishing boats on the local economy. M. Huck intends to do a press release to inform the general public of this impact. The other key point is the development of the impact on the economy related to the marina and the spending done by the people who use the marina.

2010 Schedule for Dredging North Marina Basin

M. Huck asked the Commission to authorize him to draft a letter of support to the Streets & Sanitation Committee to support the dredging of the north marina basin. The purpose of the dredging is to open up the ventilation under the blue rail and restore circulation. The dredging is on the books as part of the five year capital improvement plan which is estimated at a cost of \$250,000.00.

D. Ross made a motion to give M. Huck authorization to draft a letter of support. D. Graunke added that it should be stated that the purpose is for health and safety as well as to preserve the natural integrity of the environment.

J. Ruffolo made a modified motion. D. Graunke seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Harbor Projects included in Federal Stimulus Request

There are four harbor projects included in the list that was put together by the City that may qualify for the Federal Stimulus Plan. They are the removal of the railroad bridges, the marina basin dredging, the installation of the sheet wall and perimeter of the railway property.

WCPA Madison Day, February 24

M. Huck informed the Commission that he will be spending February 24th in Madison with the Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association. He will be speaking with the representatives from the Department of Transportation, DNR and Coastal Management about our needs and find out what their priorities are.

B. Brennan made a Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:20 p.m. J. Anderson seconded the Motion.

MIKE HUCK
Harbor Master

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