

Minutes of the Marina Board Meeting held Thursday, November 19, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., at House of Flavors Restaurant.

Present: Chairman Jack Bulger, Vice Chairman Dick Boes, members Avery Benedict, Howard Hansen, and Kaye Holman.

Absent: None.

Also present were City Manager John Shay, Interim Marina Manager Jim Christensen, and Recording Secretary Rachele Enbody.

The meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m.

There was no audience participation.

Moved by K. Holman, seconded by A. Benedict, to approve the minutes from the meeting held 11/19/09 as printed. Motion carried.

Moved by A. Benedict, seconded by D. Boes, to accept the November 2009 Financial Report. K. Holman questioned the clothing allowance expenses for the year and wondered if the expense was for shirts that are sold by the marina or for uniform shirts for staff. J. Christensen explained that the line item of "clothing allowance" was for uniforms and the line item of "sale items" was for the different items sold by the marina. K. Holman then questioned why the amount spent on uniforms was over the amount budgeted. J. Christensen stated that the shirts were purchased before he took over as interim manager but would assume that new uniform shirts were needed for staff. Each staff member gets two to three shirts each season with their name embroidered on the shirt and they must turn the shirts in at the end of each season. Jim stated that the shirts are usually only used for one season. A discussion followed on the cost of shirts and whether it would be better to have name tags for employees instead of having their shirts personalized. J. Christensen will review costs and provide a breakdown of shirt expenses for next month's meeting. A. Benedict noted that the fund balance is decreasing due to the payments made for the transient dock construction. J. Shay said that all costs incurred have been submitted to the state for reimbursement. K. Holman stated that she is happy with the listing of invoices paid that is provided with the financial reports each month. Motion carried.

J. Christensen gave the Manager's Report. Jim attended a progress meeting for the transient dock project. The contractor thought they were about a week behind schedule, which is not bad considering the poor weather conditions they've had. The project will be shut down for the season by no later than next week Wednesday (12/23/09). The remainder of the project will be completed in the spring. J. Christensen was scheduled to attend the December Waterways Commission meeting to request additional of seasonal slips due to the construction of the transient dock. The December meeting was postponed due to weather so he will make the request at the next meeting. J. Christensen contacted the DNR for a list of approved contractors for the treatment of aquatic weeds and obtained bids. The lowest bid came in at \$475.00 less than what was paid last year. J. Christensen asked the board about a situation concerning a seasonal boater who passed away. The board felt it was best to wait until hearing from the family of the boater and see what their wishes are before making any decisions. The Board felt that the December deadline for full refund could be waived.

K. Holman stated that she thought letter written by J. Christensen to Carl and Linda Phillips was a fabulous letter. She said that the letter did exactly what the board wanted it to do by taking their suggestions into consideration, making improvements from the comments and explaining why the marina cannot segregate restrooms between transient and seasonal boaters in a public facility.

The board discussed the new transient dock and how to approach the request for additional seasonal slips when J. Christensen attends the Waterways Commission meeting. Most importantly, the marina would like to see a return on the investment for the transient dock and increasing seasonal slips would help to accomplish that goal. The marina is seeking to add as many as fifteen seasonal slips, but will be happy with any amount over the seventy five that are currently allowed.

J. Bulger submitted two suggestions to the board for discussion. The first suggestion was to change the location of the monthly marina board meetings to a meeting room at City Hall and to discontinue providing lunch. There has been some difficulty with the current location including inconvenient table configurations, poor service, and having other restaurant customers in the meeting room. The second suggestion was to stop holding, at least temporarily, the Annual Dinner. Both suggestions were made in consideration of the recent layoffs and other cut backs at the City. K. Holman stated that at least one City Councilor has been very vocal against the lunch provided each month for the board. She also stated that even though tax dollars do not pay for either the lunches or the Annual Dinner, it is the perception by the public that City money is being used. The marina is a profitable business and is in good financial condition, with revenues received from slip fees and fuel sales, not tax dollars. The marina has made many donations in the past to projects within the City and by not holding the Annual Dinner the money saved would make more funds available for projects that benefit the entire community. (i.e. Waterfront Park, Skate Park, etc.). A benefit of the Annual Dinner is the opportunity for Marina Board Members to interact with City Council Members and the coverage provided by the news media. Alternate suggestions by board members included cutting back to only appetizers or having people pay for their own beverages. J. Shay will talk to members of council for their suggestions regarding the Annual Dinner and the board will discuss it at the next meeting.

Moved by K. Holman, seconded by D. Boes, to set the monthly Marina Board Meetings for the third Thursday of every month, at 11:30 a.m. at the Municipal Building, 400 South Harrison Street, Ludington. Motion carried.

J. Shay reported that over fifty applications were received and reviewed for the position of marina manager. J Shay and D. Boes interviewed seven candidates for the position and unanimously agreed on Jim Christensen as the best choice. Moved by D. Boes, seconded by A. Benedict, to recommend to City Council that Jim Christensen be appointed as Marina Manager. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p m.

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Rachelle D. Enbody, Recording Secretary