



# Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive  
Petersburg AK, 99833

## Meeting Minutes Harbors and Port Advisory Board

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Tuesday, December 12, 2017

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

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### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bangs at 12:00 p.m. In addition to Board Members, Assembly Liaison Wohlhueter, Assembly Member Meucci, Mark Hofstad, Brian Lynch, Bob Volk, Taylor Pullar, Sandy Dixson, Doug Welde, Joel Randrup, Ed Tagaban, Liz Cabrera and Jody Tow were guests in attendance.

**Present** 5 - Board Member John Murgas, Board Member Glenn Reid Jr., Board Member Mike Bangs, Board Member Don Spigelmyre, and Board Member Scott Newman

**Excused** 2 - Board Member Bob Martin, and Board Member Bob Dolan

### 2. Approval of the Minutes

#### A. March 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [March 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes.PDF](#)

The meeting minutes of March 10, 2017 were approved as submitted.

### 3. Amendment & Approval of Meeting Agenda

Board Member Murgas requested to move Scow Bay Project Tiger Grant Application from Discussion Items to New Business, and to add the following Discussion Items: establishing a Harbor Board Mission Statement, frequency of meetings and meeting time limits. Assembly Member Meucci requested to add a discussion about replacing the benches along Harbor Way. The agenda was approved as amended.

### 4. Visitors Views Unrelated to Agenda

Dave Berg addressed the Board concerning the use of the Drive Down Facility by users other than the fishing fleet. He felt the growing cruise ship industry should be allowed more use of the facility in order to make their stops in Petersburg easier. Harbormaster Wollen shared that the past summer schedule of giving the tour ship companies certain set days to schedule their weekly stops that correspond with the summer fisheries would be repeated this upcoming year. Other stops would be dealt with on a case by case basis. Brian Lynch spoke as a visitor guide saying there could be better coordination between the tour ship support groups to be better stewards of the facility. Discussion also included talk about the addition of a dolphin at the Port Dock increasing moorage availability to new and larger vessels.

### 5. Visitors Views Related to Agenda

Member Murgas asked to temporarily excuse himself as a Board Member in order to address the Board from the audience concerning the Scow Bay Project Tiger Grant Application process. Chairman Bangs allowed it and John Murgas, representing himself and his business & employees (Island Ventures LLC doing business as Petersburg Marine), spoke to concerns he had in regards to how his business was portrayed in the Borough's recent Tiger Grant Application. Mr. Murgas does not support the application and opposed the

method in which the grant application was organized and submitted. He requested that the Harbor Board insist upon being involved in any future Scow Bay development. Chairman Bangs reviewed the Board's lack of involvement in the grant application but reminded Mr. Murgas that the Board has been actively participating in plans for development in Scow Bay for many years. Chairman Bangs advised Mr. Murgas to take his complaints to the Assembly in regards to specifics and the method of applying for the grant. Harbormaster Wollen explained that the submitted grant application for this federal program was probably a long shot for funding but that it showed agencies that we are seriously looking for opportunities to remedy our grid situation. Liaison Wohlhueter commented that the Scow Bay present situation is less than ideal and then complimented PEDC for trying to get money to fund this project. Brian Lynch spoke as a member of the PEDC Board and wording in the application was meant to paint a picture in regards to the needs of the future not disparage Petersburg Marine.

## 6. Staff Report

### A. 2017 Summer/Fall Harbormaster's Report

Attachments:     [2017 Summer & Fall Harbormaster's Report.PDF](#)  
[Petersburg Navigation Improvements Fact Sheet.PDF](#)  
[2017 Petersburg Tourship Review.PDF](#)  
[History of Raw Fish Tax.PDF](#)

Harbormaster Wollen reviewed her written report. The report is attached and made a permanent part of these minutes.

## 7. Unfinished Business

None.

## 8. New Business

### A. Marine Passenger Fee

Attachments:     [Juneau Marine Passenger Fee Ordinance.PDF](#)

Chairman Bangs opened the discussion with a question to Finance Director Tow concerning the ease of collecting this fee. Director Tow explained how the individual companies would supply the Borough with a manifest and get billed accordingly. Harbormaster Wollen felt that the new fees gathered should stay out of Harbor income and go to the Borough's General Fund to help offset the entire community's costs related to the visitor industry. Board Member Spigelmyre asked Dave Berg if he felt a Marine Passenger Fee might discourage the tour ship industry from stopping in Petersburg. Mr. Berg did not feel it would detour the ships from stopping if they saw that the funds were being spent on things that would benefit their passengers. Mr. Berg also wondered if this fee could be applicable to ships using areas outside of town but still within the Borough. Assembly Member Meucci explained his intent of bringing this idea forward was to make it applicable to any vessel that entered the Petersburg Borough and used Borough land. Board Member Murgas wanted to make sure the funds directly benefitted both the Borough and tour ship industry. Harbormaster Wollen suggested that the Harbor could play a part in suggesting how the funds could be spent and Chairman Bangs also wanted a project list that came directly from the tour ship companies to be considered. Liaison Wohlhueter wanted the method of collecting the fees to remain very simple and Board Member Newman said it seemed logical for Petersburg to collect a fee if every other community is doing it.

The Board's consensus is to recommend further exploration of a Marine Passenger Fee by the Borough Assembly and to use the funds to benefit this industry.



**B. Capital Project Needs List**

Attachments:     [2017 Capital Projects List.PDF](#)

The Board discussed the Harbor's 2018 Capital Projects List and the variety of projects on the list. The Board unanimously decided to provide the Borough Manager with the same list as last year.

**C. Resolutions for Upcoming Legislative Session**

Attachments:     [Petersburg Resolution #2016-28.PDF](#)  
                             [AAHPA Resolution #2017-2.PDF](#)

1. The Board discussed the State's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program and the value of funding this program. The Board voted unanimously to request the Assembly pass a resolution in support of full funding (\$9,820,141) for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2019 Capital Budget.

2. The Board discussed support of Senate Bill 92: An Act Relating to Abandoned and Derelict Vessels. While there are valid arguments to passing much of Bill 92 into law, the Board has concerns of issues related to insurance requirements and how the bill treats owner/operators of private marine vessel storage facilities. The Board agreed to monitor the debate and revisit the topic in the future.

**Scow Bay Project Tiger Grant Application**

Attachments:     [PEDC Tiger Grant Application for Scow Bay.PDF](#)

Board Member Murgas would like the Board to request to the Assembly that the Harbor Board be involved in the Tiger Grant Application process. Discussion involved Liz Cabrera, Community and Economic Development Director, who submitted the application on behalf of the Borough. She mentioned that much of the wording was a result of what the facility was originally designed for - as an amphibious airplane haul out facility - not what it was necessarily being used for currently as per the grant application. She explained that she needed to tell a story to the Federal Agency of repurposing the State Turnaround as an obsolete asset and turning it into something productive that we can use within our community in order to fill the infrastructure transportation gap we currently have. The Board discussed not being involved in the grant application process, but being very involved in planning for the area as it pertains to the specific needs of the Harbor - wash down facility and potentially a new harbor basin someday.

**9. Communication**

None.

**10. Discussion Items****A. Frequency of Meetings**

Board Member Murgas wanted to discuss the frequency of meetings. Chairman Bangs explained that the frequency of meetings is on a needs basis. The Board usually does not meet during the summers due to lack of quorum, so concentrates the meetings during the winter. Chairman Bangs asked other members what they would like. Board Member Murgas would like to see more meetings. Harbormaster Wollen reminded the Board that the Harbor Board is an Advisory Board to the Assembly so most topics covered should come at the direction of the Assembly and/or Borough Manager.

**B. North Harbor Parking**

Board Member Newman brought up the need for a new parking situation for the North Harbor users. He has been approached by folks asking the Borough to be more accommodating to North Harbor patrons concerning parking. The Board discussed putting the parking issue on the next Harbor Board agenda.

**C. Maximum Time Length of Meetings**

Board Member Murgas withdrew the topic of discussing a maximum time length on meetings.

**D. Harbor Board Mission Statement**

Board Member Murgas also withdrew the topic of discussing a Harbor Board mission statement saying he would investigate this idea and get back to the Board sometime in the future with a suggestion.

**E. Harbor Way Benches**

Assembly Member Meucci inquired about replacing benches along Harbor Way to allow local citizens to sit and enjoy the waterfront. Discussion occurred on the reasons they were pulled out - loitering, littering, the cost of overseeing and cleaning up around them and snow removal. Harbormaster Wollen offered to try putting up a few benches again next summer if it works out. Board Member Spigelmyre offered to organize the processing companies to help police the area and clean up after their workers.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.