DOCKS AND HARBORS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Port Office Conference Room/Zoom Webinar

A. CALL TO ORDER by Shem Sooter at 5:00 pm

B. ROLL CALL: James Becker, Tyler Emerson (via Zoom), Clayton Hamilton, Robert Horchover (via Zoom), Matthew Leither, Mark Ridgway, and Shem Sooter.

Absent: Nick Orr and Annette Smith.

Also, in attendance: Carl Uchytil-Port Director, Matthew Sill-Port Engineer, Matthew Creswell-Harbormaster, Leah Narum-Administrative Officer, Maureen Hall-Assembly Liaison, Jerry Burns-member of the public and Nicole Lynch-CBJ Law Department.

C. PORT DIRECTOR REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES

Mr. Uchytil moved item 11 (Jerry Burns - Boat Shelter Sale) as the first Item under new business.

MR. RIDGWAY MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS ADMENDED AND ASKED FOR UNANIMOUNS CONSENT.

Motion passed.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS-None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 29, 2026 Minutes

Mr. Uchytil pointed out that Mr. Sooter's vote was not accurately represented in the minutes. Corrections will be made to the minutes.

Minutes were approved unanimously with the known correction.

2. February 4, 2026 Special Board Minutes-Minutes approve unanimously.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

3. A. Public Requests for Consent Agenda Changes-None

B. Board Member Requests for Consent Agenda Changes-None

C. Items for Action

MR. RIDGWAY MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AND ASKED FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Docks & Harbors Board Resolution in Support of North Douglas Boat Launch Property

RECOMMENDATION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADVANCING EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY NECESSARY TO EXPAND NORTH DOUGLAS BOAT LAUNCH

5. Resolution of Support for Alaska Department of Natural Resources to Convey Tidelands to CBJ Necessary for the North Douglas Boat Launch Expansion

RECOMMENDATION: FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION REQUESTING CONVEYANCE OF TIDELANDS FROM ADNR TO NECESSARY TO EXPAND THE NORTH DOUGLAS BOAT LAUNCH.

6. Boat Launch Permit Donation Request – Taku River Recreation Association

RECOMMENDATION: TO DONATE A CY26 LAUNCH RAMP PERMIT TO THE TAKU RIVER RECREATION ASSOCIATION.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

H. NEW BUSINESS

7. Board's Right of First Refusal to Purchase Aurora Harbor Boat Shelter AF-29

Presentation by Port Director

Mr. Uchytil introduced Jerry Burns. He has a boat shelter that he would like to sell. The price that he is willing to sell the boat shelter is $37,000. He said per code, the Board has the right of first refusal to purchase it. He referred to page 63 of the packet regarding the Boat Shelter (AF-29) – For Sale. The question before the board was would they like to exercise their right to purchase boat shelter AF-29?

a. **Board Questions-None**

b. **Public Comment-None**

c. **Board Discussion/ Action:**

Mr. Ridgway said he would speak in favor of waiving of the Board's refusal and said Mr. Burns was a neighbor of his on the same float.

MR. RIDGWAY MOVED TO WAIVE THE BOARD'S RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL TO PURCHASE AURORA HARBOR BOAT SHELTER AF-29 ALLOWING MR. BURNS TO SELL HIS SHELTER ON THE OPEN MARKET AND ASKED FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Proposed Regulations Changes to 05 CBJ Administrative Code

Presentation by Harbormaster

Mr. Creswell said that what they had before them was the same packet from last week's Ops meeting. There were two suggestions from the board that have been changed. He referred to the regulations on page 35-55 and the two items the Board recommended changing. On page 35, 05 CBJ 07.010 Inactive Vessel Management, they're removing the option for an owner to voluntarily declare their vessel as an inactive vessel. Under Item (f) there's a definition change, that reserved moorage would be changed to preferred moorage. That terminology was changed throughout from reserved to preferred. On page 36, Item (g) they changed houseboats to float houses. Mr. Ridgway requested that language be strengthened so that the float house would be constructed and maintained to be seaworthy and structurally sound with adequate floatation and stability, such that it does not pose a risk to life, property or harbor infrastructure as determined by the harbor.

a. Board Questions

Mr. Ridgway asked on page 41, section (j) about DeHart Marina Patrons have preferred moorage.

Mr. Creswell said that the patrons at DeHart Marina have preferred moorage but must meet the requirements under 05 CBJAC 10.010(f).

Mr. Ridgway said regarding Section 8 (k) it seems odd that Docks and Harbors is charging moorage rates for an amphibious vessel that is on dry land.

Mr. Creswell said there was lots of room in the harbor for the amphibious boat.

Mr. Hamilton asked if there was an actual difference between reserved and preferred.

Mr. Creswell answered that if you were a stallholder, per the regulations, you're in reserved moorage which conflicted with reservation moorage. When a patron signs a preferential moorage agreement, Docks and Harbors refer to it as preferential because of the agreement. They are making a code change to the wording from reserved to preferred.

Mr. Emerson asked if the amphibious boat owner had an opportunity to purchase a monthly moorage and then park in the parking lot for a month or would they be charged the daily moorage rate.

Mr. Creswell said he had not really discussed that with staff, but he didn't see anything that would keep that from happening in a parking lot situation for an amphibious vessel.
Mr. Emerson said he would prefer it if they had that option.

Mr. Creswell said that that would happen.

Mr. Leither asked if there was any outreach to owners of the amphibious vessels to give them forewarning.

Mr. Creswell said that he had not but would be reaching out to those patrons.

Mr. Hamilton asked what the intent was for the refundability (page 37, 05 CBJAC 20.042) being at the discretion of the Harbormaster.

Mr. Creswell said that He didn't know why it's discretionary but thought that the language pulls from other language within code.

Mr. Hamilton asked whether he wanted that or whether he thought it would be confusing.

Mr. Creswell said that he didn't see it as being confusing but if the Board sees it as confusing, they could change that. He thought the only time that it could be "at the discretion" would be if that account had other funds owed or had a balance on key fobs or crane charges or other harbor fees that could potentially be removed from that refund terminology.

Mr. Ridgway asked if he could explain the refund policy more clearly.

Mr. Creswell said that he makes it simpler.

Mr. Hamilton asked Mr. Creswell had ever not refunded a patron.

Mr. Creswell said not from what he could remember and that they are easy to work with.

Mr. Uchytil said that they still had the "may be refunded" in there.

Ms. Lynch said it doesn't make any difference with the wording because there is the "may" and "at the discretion". She said if they took out the "may" it would probably mean the same thing.

a. **Public Comment-None**

b. **Board Discussion/Action:**

Mr. Hamilton asked if these changes were made every year.

Mr. Creswell answered that internally they get together with staff in the fall and throughout the year they send him their ideas of how they would like to see changes in the regulations. He starts putting them together and begins a draft and then it goes to Ms. Lynch at the Department of Law. In February and March he brings them before the board to finalize the changes.

Mr. Ridgway said that the process allows the public to review the comments, so that they can start the review and at that time changes can still be made.

MR. RIDGWAY MADE THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD ACCEPT THE PROPOSED CHANGES AND SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO REVIEW COMMENTS AND ASKED FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Mr. Uchytil asked for follow-up in that it is up to the Board to set a date for public hearings. There's a requirement that they need 21 days for public notice.

Mr. Sooter said he would feel comfortable making the changes at a Board Meeting.

Mr. Hamilton said he'd like to board to discuss what the public notice looks like.

Mr. Uchytil explained that in the past, the requirements were that the regulations were published in a widely circulated newspaper, however that was being changed. They have given notice in the newspaper, a notice goes in all the libraries, and in the TIDE LINE, social media postings which are available through Facebook. They are not required but the minimum notification was that they were widely circulated through a newspaper.

Mr. Hamilton said that he would like to see the regulation changes at the Harbor level.

Mr. Sooter said that the regulation changes would be available at the Harbor offices.

MR. RIDGWAY MADE THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD ACCEPT THE PROPOSED CHANGES AND SET A PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO COINCIDE WITH THE MARCH BOARD MEETING TO REVIEW COMMENTS AND ASKED FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Proposed CBJ Code Changes to Title 85

Presentation by Harbormaster

Mr. Creswell said that on page 49 of the packet, under 85.02.060 General powers striking the language within (5) (A) and on page 50, 85.02.105 striking Port dues. On page 51, there was a ratification of the Employee relations, and on page 52 there's the change in Definitions for float house from Houseboat. Page 53 there was an update striking the Douglas Wharf, Ferry Dock Wharf and Cold Storage and adding the Cruise Terminal wharf and definition of a Transient vessel. Under Vehicle parking, (F) there was an update to Statter Harbor Auke Bay Marine Station. Page 54 there was updated to include parking payment kiosks. For 85.25.180 Impounded boat: there was a under (h) an addition of greater than or equal to. On page 55, there was an addition if the vessel poses a hazard, specific to bodily fluids, etc. Finally, there was 85.25.210 Overtime moorage penalties paying for overtime moorage.

a. Board Questions-None

b. Public Comment-None

c. Board Discussion/Action:

Mr. Ridgway said he felt that there was needed follow-up on a discussion that Mr. Orr started regarding different funds. He asked if staff could remind the Board beforehand so that they had time to look at the changes. He listed the example of the definition of a float house and how home-made float house concerned him to a certain degree.

MR. RIDGWAY MADE THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD ACCEPT THE PROPOSED CHANGES AND RECOMMEND THE ASSEMBLY ADOPT AND ASKED FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Bid Award – Little Rock Dump – Secure Storage (DH26-015)

Presentation by Port Director

Mr. Uchytil said on page 57 was the posting notice for the Little Rock Dump Secure Storage. The vision for the facility would be for commercial use or their harbors. They had 5 bidders and the apparent low bid went to Island Contractors, Inc. for a total of $418,750. The base bid is for clearing, grubbing, filling and fencing. The alternative is for lighting. They separated out the costs to differentiate whether they would have enough money with the funds that are in the CIP account. The transfer of those funds will occur at the March 9th Assembly meeting to transfer the remnants of the Statter Harbor roof project to go into the CIP account so that it would be sufficient to award the entire amount to Island Contractor for $418,750.

a. Board Questions:

Mr. Ridgway asked if the bid included cleaning up from various projects over the years or does is it going to grade the north side of the site.

Mr. Uchytil said that part of the project, approximately one-third of the acre, would be to organize the remnants that are outside the footprint and clean up the site.

Mr. Becker asked how many spaces would be available.

Mr. Uchytil said they are still working on the specifications but according to the drawings they are about a dozen 40-foot Conex boxes. They are working to see how many 40-foot containers would be available, how they will place them and how they will be regulated.

Mr. Ridgway asked if this was permitted landfill with DEC.

Mr. Uchytil said no that it was not a permitted landfill and there's no restrictions on any of the sludge cells.

Mr. Sill added that after the sludge cells were completed and capped, there was a 10-year monitoring program. After that there were no prohibitions or monitoring requirements.

Mr. Ridgway asked if it would be necessary to contact DEC about excavating in that area.

Mr. Sill said that the design concept for the project was that they were not going to dig up the sludge cells. Their consultant was thoughtful and said that this would be a fill-only project and they would not be digging up the existing cells.

b. **Public Comment-None**
c. **Board Discussion/Action:**

MR. RIDGWAY MADE THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE ASSEMBLY APPROVE THE BID AWARD DH26-015 TO ISLAND CONTRACTORS, LLC FOR $418,750 AND ASKED FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion passed unanimously.

11. Transfer of $80,000 from CIP H51-125 (Aurora Harbor Improvements) to CIP H51-136 (Little Rock Dump - Secure Storage)

Presentation by Port Director

Mr. Uchytil referred to page 61 to move $80,000 into the CIP account for a contingency if they hire a construction administrator or inspect or the have money available to buy Conex boxes. The funds that were in CIP plus the money left over from the Statter Roof Project gave them about $6,000 that was left, which was not enough so this was a contingency.

a. **Board Questions- None**
b. **Public Comment-None**
c. **Board Discussion/Action:**

MR. RIDGWAY MADE THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE ASSEMBLY TRANSFER $80,000 FROM CIP H51-125 (AURORA HARBORS IMPROVEMENTS) TO CIP H51-136 (LITTLE ROCK DUMP -SECURE STORAGE) AND ASKED FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

12. Geotechnical Investigation - North Douglas Launch Ramp Expansion Project

Presentation by Port Director

Mr. Uchytil said that on page 64 this project was gaining momentum. There was a resolution by the Board asking the Assembly to execute a land transfer with ADOT for the uplands at North Douglas in exchange for the property underneath the Juneau-Douglas Bridge. The Board also approved today the language needed for an application for the tidelands of 8 acres needed for the project. They have also been in contact with Coeur Alaska. He has been working on a non-binding, MOA with Coeur Alaska, to use their waste rock for this project. Docks and Harbors has limited money for the project, but things are lining up. They are amending the contract, on behalf of the Army Corp of Engineers, with the Discovery Drilling Geotech firm who were working on the Statter Breakwater project. Last week, he got a call from the Army Corps of Engineers, who said they canceled the geotechnical investigation contract with Discovery as USACE doesn't want to do it. Last year they had two bid solicitations and Discovery Drilling was the sole responsive bidder. Because Army Corps of Engineers is no longer requiring the geotechnical work, there was language in the contract which would allow Docks and Harbors to back out at no cost. However, what we'd like to do is to amend or modify the contract to complete the Geotech work necessary for the North Douglas launch ramp facility as long as Discovery Drilling was still under contract. Docks and Harbors would like them to conduct the six soil samplings shown on page 79 of the packet. At the direction of the Department of Law, he would like to modify the existing contract with Discovery to justify the use of the contractor to do this work. Their plan was to move their equipment to Juneau on May 4 to do this work. If they don't get this work done now, he said that there would have to be an RFP process that would happen next fiscal year. If they don't get it done on their own, they would have to have an engineering company to do this work and there would be a markup of 10% on top of the work. He thought the 6 locations were reasonable for this type of work. He would like to ask the Board if they approve of expediting this project.

a. Board Questions:

Mr. Horchover said he loved the idea of expediting this project. His only caution was whether it was something the contractor was willing to do. He said changing the scope and location would not be a modification of the contract, it would be a completely new project.

Mr. Uchytil said that it's within the scope of the work that they were planning on doing at Statter Harbor, which was just 4 miles away. It's not materially different than the scope that was bid.

Mr. Leither asked if he understood that if Docks and Harbors reopened the bid process that it was more than likely that we would only have the sole bidder and that would be Discovery Drilling.

Mr. Uchytil said that they know of 4 drilling companies and they are all in Alaska. The other bidder changed their format and was deemed non-responsive. If they couldn't modify the current contract, then they would need to go out for another bid process and they would lose a year of field work opportunity, or it would be rolled into the engineering consultant's work. Leaning into the project now would advance the project.

Mr. Ridgway said that he remembered that there was a depth issue at Statter Harbor. He said it makes sense for staff to want to pursue this Geotech project. He asked staff if there was any concern with depth at Statter Harbor and North Douglas Launch Ramp.

Mr. Uchytil said that the original work that was specified was 150 feet of water for 100 feet that type of work. They would be looking for whether the sediment was suitable for pile-supported breakwater or floating breakwater.

Mr. Ridgway said that his question was on the funding whether there were any strings attached to the original contract for the geotechnical work. Did it come from a specific grant or was that something that should be concerned about.

Mr. Uchytil said that the rationale for the cancellation was that the Army Corp of Engineers wanted to use the samples for feasibility studies. The original idea was 3 years for $3 million with a 50/50 split between the local sponsor and the federal government. The project manager said that Docks and Harbors would need to come up with more (approximately $2.5 million) due to inflation to do the cost share. They have $2.5 million in the CIP for the Statter Harbor Breakwater project. In FY25, they issued $500,000 to the Army Corps, and every year, they will work in-kin or MIPR. MIPR is a federal term to transfer money from one government agency to another. However, a year ago, the Army Corps said they don't have the capacity to do the work as they asked Docks and Harbors to contract for the geotechnical work. They were under so much pressure to complete the work in 3 years at $3 million and were not looking at multiple options. Docks and Harbors has committed to $1.4 million for that work. The Army Corps has said they are going to pursue one option that Docks and Harbors has proposed. He thought that at the next board meeting, depending on what the Board directs him to do, he would transfer money from the Statter Harbor breakwater into this CIP for North Douglas. This project would need to be expedited but the CIP project will be created in FY27, which starts on July 1st. They have $225,000 currently planned for that project and when they move the million dollars from the breakwater to the CIP fund.

Mr. Horchover said he supported the concept. He said the scope of the two projects were vastly different and if the contract went to Discovery Drilling that the contract, he felt should be less. He would not support a 10% increase for much less work for the North Douglas project.

Mr. Uchytil said that he had the existing contract in the packet but that was not what was being negotiated for the North Douglas project. In North Douglas there are 40-60 feet of water samplings, which would be vastly easier. The geotech work was a sampling, and they use the same equipment, same supervision but they would have to make an entirely different contract altogether. He said he was asking for the Board's authority to ask for the proposal.

Mr. Ridgway asked if we knew of another entity that would be bringing a floating geotech service into town between the time that we would be awarding the Discovery Drilling contract.

Mr. Uchytil said that he knew that last year Discovery was here looking at the west side of Douglas. Docks and Harbors staff knows no other vessels of opportunity in the area in the coming year.

Mr. Hamilton asked if the typical rules for a contract of this scale would be a 3-month notice. He asked Mr. Uchytil to remind him of the rules of an RFP process.

Mr. Uchytil said the rules of procurement through CBJ were anything up to $50,000 they need 3 quotes. For over $50,000, they need a formal contract. Docks and Harbors in Title 85, any contract over $100,000 requires formal Assembly approval. Anything over $50,000, requiring the formal contract, there is an online contract tool called Public Purchase. They must advertise for basically 21 days and then departments submit a request for proposals which are evaluated, or request for quotes that are sealed bids. If it's over $100,000, they would bring it before the Board to approve and then the Assembly.

Mr. Hamilton asked if there was an actual estimate of how much this project would be.

Mr. Sill said they were projecting the project to cost around $350,000.

Mr. Uchytil said that he thought that amount was reasonable but didn't want to document that. They have contract in place now but if they amend it with modifications, they don't need the Boards or Assembly's approval for an already-approve contract. It would be up to the procurement officer to make changes to the contract.

a. Public Comment-None
b. Board Discussion/Action:

Mr. Ridgway said that he would speak in favor of staff entering negotiations with Discovery Drilling.

Mr. Hamilton said he didn't understand why they were taking funds out of Statter Harbor when there could be unforeseen potentialities.

Mr. Ridgeway said the way he understood it was that the Army Corps of Engineers were not going to spend $3 million on a feasibility study and were going to pick one design and that design relies upon the existing structure. The geotechnical work would no longer be set aside for that additional geotechnical work for Statter. They are using geotechnical work for North Douglas instead.

Mr. Uchytil said the other topic the Army Corps of Engineers brought up was that they needed geotech to address the pile-supported structures. They're under so much pressure; they said that the anchor-stay structure works in Auke Bay so the Army Corps will move on a proven design for the mooring system in Auke Bay.

Mr. Leither asked if that was a tried-and-true method or whether that methodology has aged in the construction.

Mr. Sill said that the Statter Breakwater was built in the 1980's and it is only slightly older than the Aurora Harbor which was built between the late 60's-70's. They are getting roughly the same lifespan out of the Statter breakwater. It is holding up as well ask any other of their Harbor systems.

MR. RIDGWAY MADE THE MOTION TO DIRECT THE PORT DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH DISCOVERY DRILLING TO PROVIDE GEOTECHNICAL SAMPLING NECESSARY FOR THE NORTH DOUGLAS LAUNCH RAMP FACILITY.

All in favor: James Becker, Tyler Emerson, Robert Horchover, Matthew Leither, Mark Ridgway and Shem Sooter.

Not in favor: Clayton Hamilton.

Motion passed.

I. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

13. Boat Launch Permit Donation Request – Board Policy Discussion

Presentation by Port Director

Mr. Uchytil said that on page 83 there was a Resolution No. 2026-3 regarding Docks & Harbors Board in support of donating launch permits to non-profit organizations. He reviewed the 6 points that the Board implied in the last Board meeting.

a. Board Discussion:

Mr. Hamilton asked who they defined in item (2) the nexus. Did that mean a school group or a scout troop?

Mr. Uchytil said the Board selection committee would determine that but every applicant would need to be a non-profit and registered as a 501 (c) organization.

Mr. Leither said some organizations like the Taku River Rats wouldn't meet the criteria for a 501 (c).

Mr. Uchytil said that some of the corporations were incorporated somehow. They have a business license.

Mr. Ridgway said that he didn't remember anything about a selection committee being discussed. He asked Ms. Lynch what her thoughts would be on a group receiving a charitable donation.

Ms. Lynch said that some 501(c) organizations are political so they may want to exclude those.

Mr. Sooter asked if it would be better to term the recipients as non-profits.

Mr. Ridgway said the Board was in favor of giving the River Rats a launch permit because they asked but he could see how this would be an item for discussion. He thought that staff could broaden the definition of selection committee and let them make the decisions.

Mr. Hamilton asked how they felt about striking items 2, 3, 5 which would negate item 6 to not make so many rules. He thought that they could sunset it for a year and see if it works and then look at it again.

Mr. Leither said that this was written under the Board's direction at the last meeting. He said he thought the reason they brought this up was that they were getting more requests for donations and that was the rationale for the 5 limited donations.

Mr. Ridgway said that if Mr. Hamilton had a better definition of nexus that they made that suggestion of what it should be.

Mr. Hamilton said what if they didn't have nexus but made it a seaside community.

Mr. Ridgway said he thought Mr. Orr made the recommendations that there was a connection between the organizations and Docks and Harbor.

Mr. Sooter said that staff had captured the Board's thoughts well and maybe they could bring it back to the Ops meeting after doing some research on non-profit entities.

a. Public Comment-None

J. STAFF, COMMITTEE, AND MEMBER REPORTS

14. Assembly Liaison

Ms. Hall presented:

- The City Assembly met and heard the update on the GLOF enduring solution and Phase II of flood fighting. The US Army Corp of Engineers has pulled back from a study of the preferred long-term solution for the glacier. The City has been trying to get the study back on track. The buyout program for the View Drive residents has another neighborhood meeting to make sure everyone fully understands what that entails.
- Telephone Hill: That project will be moving forward.
- Seawalk Procurement: They have directed staff to draft and ordinance to pursue $28 million in revenue bonds for the Seawalk project to be funded by marine passenger fees.
- Budget process: Is underway. On the CBJ Website you will see the survey results. They had over 4000 respondents and over 400 pages of residents with 6000 comments.

- Special meeting: On Wednesday they had a special meeting to ratify the agreement between the City and the Public Safety's Employee Association for the next 3 years. They went to the Assembly finance planning meeting and heard presentations from the Juneau Airport Board of Directors. Following that they heard from Bartlett Regional Hospital.
- Juneau Economic Development Council Innovation Summit: Today and yesterday, Ms. Hall attended the meeting about in & out migrations and why people are living in Juneau, why they return and leave. The discussion focused on how we can keep them here. There were several excellent discussions. One speaker discussed the importance of exposing young adults to trades at a young age to keep them here. She suggested getting kids down on the docks to see what's happening in the port and harbors. Another thing Juneau was facing was the rising aging population and how to care for them. There's a shrinking workforce of folks to care for the elderly, so she asked that the Board keep that in mind. Regarding the decline in the population, Ms. Hall said that they have had 13 years of out migration and that there wasn't one overall solution but that the cost of living and housing costs are rising but not as quickly as the lower 48. The University has gone to an in-state tuition for anyone so that was good to get the young people here and expose them to the great outdoors. There were lots of strategies for how to help people who do arrive to feel rooted and connected to the community. She also said our birthrate was declining overall.

15. Harbormaster

Mr. Creswell presented:

- Impounded Vessels: They are staying up to date on their impounded vessels and following up after the snow problems. They are monitoring those who are behind in payments.
- Snow Removal: In February they are still doing snow-removal. In January they had a nice 5-week break.
- Spring Hiring: That is their big focus, and they have got many jobs posted on the CBJ website. They are getting some interest. They closed their benefited seasonal Harbor Officer positions last week and Mr. Hinton, Ms. Thrower and Mr. Smith did interviews. They did 5 interviews and all of them were outstanding candidates. He believed that there were 4 positions to fill. They did not have as much luck with their Harbor Technicians positions, which are port positions. There are a few administrative positions that have been posted and interviews are happening. They are gearing up for summer, and the two seasonal staff return for the season next Monday. They have two 8-month Harbor Officers and two weeks later they will be getting their 7-month port staff back in. Staff will help with the removal of snow.
- Alaska Association of Harbormasters Port Administrators Fly-In: were here last week and there were participants from all around the state. There were some meetings at the Capitol, and they were meeting with their representatives. The whole group meets with the President of the Senate, the Seaker of the House and the Commissioner of ADOT. They are always lobbying for full funding of the State Harbor Matching Grant Program, where they requested funds for $18.165 million. That gets the State $61 million in projects so the state shares $18 million which is a good investment for the state to fund that program. They are hopeful that they will get those funds this year. They are looking at raising that amount so that they would ask for a statutory change of $7.5 million instead of $5 million.

- Alaska Associations of Harbormasters and Port Administrators: Next week, the Ports and Harbors administrators will be in Wrangell for the Winter Administrative Conference. Staff will be able to network and collaborate and have two days together with other Harbor Administrators from around the state. Mr. Creswell said he would be doing the opening address to welcome everyone and will also be briefing a couple of presentations.
- Internship program: They to an internship program with the University of Alaska Southeast to help grow the program and gain the interests of young people. The program worked great this year as it has in the past. They have also begun working the JDHS Choice Program for students exploring trade and agreed to host a site for that. He said they take workforce development seriously and said that they continue to grow interest in the maritime industry and trade.

Mr. Ridgway asked if any of the State Harbors offered commercial fishermen a flat 5% break on moorage space.

Mr. Creswell said he could not recall and that he could not recall anyone doing that but would let Mr. Ridgway know if he heard anything.

16. Port Engineer

Mr. Sill presented:

- Echo Cove Float: They have been working with their term contractor consultant for the 2026 Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Hunter Access Grant for adding a boarding float to Echo Cove. That project has a Pittman-Robertson funded grant so there is some federal money coming.
- Aurora Harbor: Electricians have been working through the bad weather and got the last two major electrical components to finish up. Harri's Plumbing has been down there working to get the water and fire systems up and running.
- Taku Harbor Improvements: All the materials are in town and those improvements will happen in the spring when the weather gets nicer. Trucano will head there and coordinate with DNR to let them know there will be construction in front of the cabin for a few weeks.
- Dock Inspection: We have the RFP for the dock inspection out and are soliciting consultants and engineers to inspect the timber dock north of the library which is the Alaska Steamship Dock and the old remnants of the Juneau Cold Storage dock, just south of the library. The RFP process closes on March 12th, and they offered an invitation to any board member who wants to sit on the selection committee.
- Douglas Harbor Boat Launch Lights: they had a request for that and are exploring options. It will be challenging to get power to Douglas, but they are looking at options to get power to all the floats for the Douglas launch ramp. They are looking at providing light when people are hunting in the wintertime. They are looking at a solar panel, powered light that would create a small light. They think that in December there is barely enough light to keep the light available for a couple hours each day. It will be an experiment, but they have run the numbers and think that it will work. They are hopeful that it will withstand the Taku winds. They have estimated the cost to be $5000.

Mr. Ridgway asked if there was an inventory of materials at the Little Rock Dump that could be made.

Mr. Sill said they don't currently have any document like that. He investigated whether any free piling could be spliced back together into useful lengths versus brand new piling with no labor attached and it would still be cheaper to buy new pilings. What he would like to see was that they find a barge going south and get all the pilings, scrap metal and other scrap metal and bring it to the board.

Mr. Leither asked if there was anything useful that someone might want in Juneau.

Mr. Sill said Docks and Harbors does an intermittent garage sale and they do sell off some items. Perhaps there may be items of value to someone but it's stuff that they can't use. If they do dispense of items, they will need a process.

Mr. Creswell said they work closely with Parks & Rec and Trail Mix to salvage items that are of no use to us.

Mr. Sooter asked what Hanson Marine has been doing.

Mr. Sill said that to his knowledge they have not left Sitka due to the weather. Everything has been done on their end; they are just waiting on a weather window.

17. Port Director

Mr. Uchytil presented:

- Public Works and Facilities meeting: Met last Monday and they proceeded with the downtown, restroom. There was a question about whether to kill museum project and they didn't give direction on that but did approve of the downtown restroom planning.
- The Land Swap with ADOT: he mentioned earlier in the meeting.
- The Planning Commission met and approved the variances requested by Ruben Willis and his Fly and Dive regarding the height and zero lot line requests.
- Assembly Meeting on March 9th- He will send Ms. Hall some talking points. Some of the things that are on the agenda are the transfer of $80,000 from the Statter Harbor to the Little Rock Dump, and the approval of the Little Rock Dump bid award. Also, he will bring before the Assembly the DNR resolution. On March 18th they will have a joint meeting with the Assembly at 5:30 pm. He will be out of town but will call in. Harbormaster Creswell will provide a budget presentation. If there's anything the Board wants to add to agenda, they will need to let him know beforehand.
- Assembly Chambers: They have plans to move all their meetings from the Docks and Harbors Board room to the city Assembly chambers. They are not ready yet.
- Advertising in Newspapers: The Assembly will be approving their new rules for advertising in newspapers of general circulation. If newspapers are read, impounded vehicles, vessels and formal solicitations or RFPs have been advertised. Going forward, they won't be required.

Mr. Leither asked regarding the email that went out about the joint meeting that also included the School Board.

Ms. Hall said that finance committee and the Assembly will hear from two Departments during the meeting scheduled for March 18th to discuss their budgets. She said Docks and Harbors would go first and then the School Board.

Mr. Uchytil said we will plan for the March Ops meeting but most likely it will be canceled because of the joint meeting with the Assembly scheduled for the same day.

K. COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
Next Board Meeting, Thursday, March 26th at 5:00 pm

L. ADJOURNMENT at 7:01 pm