CBJ DOCKS & HARBORS BOARD
CIP/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
For Thursday, March 18, 2010

I. Call to Order.

Committee member Mr. Mehrkens called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. Roll.

The following members were present: Mr. Williams, Mr. Kueffner, Mr. Donek, Mr. Preston and Mr. Mehrkens.

The following member was absent: Mr. Wostmann.

Also in attendance were: Mr. Stone – Port Director and Mr. Gillette – Port Engineer.

III. Approval of Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Williams: ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO APROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. The motion passed without objection.

IV. Public Participation.

There was none at this time.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Mr. Williams: ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO APPROVE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF February 18, 2010. The motion passed without objection.

VI. Items for Action.

1. PND Contract Amendment for Upland Improvements.

Mr. Gillette stated that in the committee members packet there is a proposal from PND which is for construction observations and inspections for the harbors uplands projects. These are for Douglas, Harris, Aurora and Statter with concrete work, some fencing and cameras for the dumpsters. This would be an amendment to the existing design contract to carry through construction to assist us with getting this project out.

MOTION by Mr. Williams: ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO FORWARD THIS TO THE FULL BOARD FOR APPOVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING PND CONTRACT TO PERFORM CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR DOUGLAS, HARRIS, AURORA, AND STATTER HARBORS UPLAND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF $33,543.00. The motion passed without objection.

2. Direction to Staff Regarding the Douglas harbor Re-Build.

Mr. Stone stated at this point it is good to say we are not spending a great deal of money on this. He said basically what has happened is that the Corps of Engineers is unable to proceed until we address the issues from the Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, and the MFS, which they are saying that the proposed project will result in substantial and unacceptable impacts on aquatic resources of national importance.

Mr. Stone met with the local Corps of Engineers office with a lady named Heidi and he basically told her that there is no sense on doing anything more until we can determine how we will address the health issues that the EPA has. In short what the EPA believes is that the bioaccumulation at the disposal site and in the harbor that would occur from the mercury in the soil at typical ingestion rates of fish by Alaskans would be harmful (See attached scale). He stated that our local Fish and Game people said it is way too high, and they have data that shows a lot less. They are putting that data together. Fish and Game is putting together a letter regarding this and will be getting it to us to submit to the Corps.

Further discussion among the committee members and Mr. Stone took place at this time regarding the consumption calculation that was done by EPA. He stated that Mr. Etheridge is taking the issue at a more political stance and trying to get something done.

Mr. Fisk, a past board member spoke regarding the studies that were submitted by the EPA. He has recommended that these findings be put in a letter addressing how obscured these numbers are and distribute this letter to the DEC, Corps of Engineers, City Mayor, the Assembly, and the general public.

Further discussion among the committee members and Mr. Stone took place at this time.

MOTION by Mr. Keuffner: ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO DIRECT STAFF TO COMPOSE A LETTER TO THE EPA WITH A CC TO OTHER AGENCIES ADDRESSING THE FINDINGS BY THE EPA. The motion passed with out objection.

3. Close Out H354-73 Ferry Dock Wharf Widening CIP and Transfer Funds to H354-85 Deferred Maintenance CIP in the Amount of $50,124.00.

Mr. Gillette stated that this project is complete and everything is paid and it is time to close it out. He stated that they are recommending that this money be put into the deferred maintenance CIP account. This is the account that funds things like the Douglas Harbor rebuild, Aurora Harbor rebuild, or any other kind of major maintenance type projects that we have. This will need to go to Public Works Committee, then to the Full Board for their approval, and then to the Assembly.

MOTION by Mr. Keuffner: ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO FORWARD THIS TO THE FULL BOARD FOR APPROVAL TO CLOSE OUT H354-73 AND TRANSFER THESE FUNDS TO H354-85. The motion passed without objection.

VII. Items for Information/Discussion.

1. Request to transfer park property at Statter Harbor to Docks and Harbors for Statter Harbor Boat Launch Project.

Mr. Gillette stated this is relative to the Statter Harbor project. It is the little piece of park property that has a little shelter on it adjacent to the Lehnhart property. Currently Parks and Recreation has it and was purchased in 2001. There is a letter in the committee members packet addressed to Mr. Matsil the Director of Parks and Recreation Department. (See attached) Mr. Gillette explained that basically we are asking to take over management of the property to be able to incorporate it into the project. He went over a little history regarding this property with the committee at this time.

Further discussion among the committee members and Mr. Gillette took place at this time.

Mr. Stone stated that we did reach an agreement with the purchase of the Lehnhart property.

2. Status of Statter Harbor Environmental Assessment.

Mr. Gillette stated that it is at the point of being wrapped up. The local Fish and Wildlife Service, who is the one department that requested we scale the project back from the tidal area and the Bay Creek area, still acknowledge that we have done a lot, but feel that it is a project they can't support. A letter was written indicating such and the letter has to go to Anchorage, and from the Fish and Game people that we have been dealing with in Anchorage they said that the people that are reviewing the letter are working to tone it down because they are in support of the project. We are sort of in a waiting pattern until we receive the letter of support to our preferred alternative and hopefully get a favorable finding of no significant impact.

Further discussion took place at this time.

3. Status of Port-Customs-Visitor Center Project.

Mr. Gillette stated that we have received the ninety five percent construction documents for this project, which he has been reviewing this past week, and have gone over it with the different user groups and everyone seems pleased and excited to see the project move forward. We are still on schedule to advertise this in mid April. We should have a cost estimate by next week.

VIII. Member & Staff Reports.

There were none at this time.

IX. Committee Administrative Matters.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2010 at 5:00 pm in the City Chambers.

X. Adjournment.

MOTION by Mr. Williams: ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. The motion passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:550 p.m.