

BOIS BLANC TOWNSHIP HARBOR COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

February 13, 2021

Bois Blanc Township – via Teleconference

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Chris Suchner, at 10:33 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Don Balbaugh (via phone) Paul Jahn (via phone), Richard Berger (via phone), Brent Canup (via phone), Dave Carter (via phone), Tom Wybranowski (via phone), Chris Suchner (via phone). Also present: Larry Phillips, Harbormaster (via phone), Betty Hutchinson, Recording Secretary (via phone), Curt Plaunt (via phone).

Motion made by D. Balbaugh to approve Minutes of January 9, 2021, as presented. Second by R. Berger. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Canup, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, D. Carter, P. Jahn, T. Wybranowski, C. Suchner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Report by Harbormaster. L. Phillips said all bubblers are in and functioning well. New sketch drawings have been received from Eastern U.P. Engineers that show additional beams being placed on the traffic area of the North Ramp to support any legal load size. When completed, EUP will provide a letter specifying that it will carry that load. Talking to Weld Tech to do the work as designed. Larry is hoping to have the ramp in working order as soon as possible before the May 1st schedule, weather permitting. Question asked as to whether the rating number will be actual numbers or a maximum legal limit. Larry will be asking for actual numbers.

Finances. T. Wybranowski said that as a recap, the marina is supported by a tax millage, grant money, and slip fees, both year round and transient. As of February 1, the revenue amounts to \$437,000. But, about 50% is funded to the feds, leaving over \$200,000 that is available. To date, we have received only half of the tax revenues due us. He is hoping to apply for and receive additional grant monies, including applying for a ferry boat program that, if successful, will provide \$94,000. We would put up \$20,000. This grant would entail providing money to ferry companies for repairs and other expenses. Money has been put aside by this program and they would like us to apply for that money.

OLD BUSINESS

C. Suchner opened a discussion regarding naming the Cheboygan River property. After discussion, a **Motion** was made by Don Balbaugh to recommend the name Bois Blanc River

Harbor to the Bois Blanc Township Board as the name of the Cheboygan River property. Second by P. Jahn. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Canup, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, C. Carter, P. Jahn, T. Wybranowski, C. Suchner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Update on Harbor Employee. C. Suchner asked if there were any protocols done. L. Phillips said it is not complete, though he and D. Akright have been working on it. Budget meetings will be held next week and he expects to hear about monies available for the position. C. Suchner asked if the Harbor Commission will have representation at these meetings on February 18 and 19. T. Wybranowski and L. Phillips will be there. Chris will phone in, as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Ferry Schedule. C. Suchner said that there might be a conflict with the chapel preachers and the ferry schedule. C. Plaunt said the schedule was developed with the issue of getting the vehicles/passengers loaded, and changing it would make it harder for them to keep to the schedule. After discussion, Curt said he would talk with Ryan and Jason and see if they could do anything about the situation.

Chris said he would like Curt to consider running the ferry earlier in the year and later in the year, weather permitting. Curt said there are two issues: One, the numbers using the ferry at that time don't make it feasible to run, and, two, the weather does not permit a reliable schedule during December and April. He has doubled the number of runs in December and April this year as weather permitted. If scheduled runs cannot run, it inconveniences the people who have traveled to meet the schedule. Curt cannot schedule December or April and be assured he can run a trip.

Comments from Members of the Harbor Commission.

B. Canup said he and T. Wybranowski would like to send out requests for qualifications (RFQ) for engineers to develop the new Cheboygan River property. He would like to advertise and put together a list of engineers who would be interested.

Public Comment

Wes Peterman thanked the Commission for getting the work done on the North Ramp. He asked for updates on the Brightwaters Park. There is nothing new. T. Wybranowski will get back to him if there is news to report.

Tom Lower asked if the Commission is aware drawings have already been put together by EUP for the Cheboygan property. He also has a concern that he and Carl Miller had slips at the south end of the marina that were unusable this year, due to the ferry having to use the South Ramp. Slips that were made available were unusable most of the time as transients were using them. He has put in a request to have his moved when one becomes available. He also asked if it would be

possible to have a special rate applied because he and Carl were unable to use the marina when they had paid for a slip. The Commission said they thought that should be possible and will see how to do it.

Beth Beson asked if there was any progress on the Pines Dock. L. Phillips has had verbal meetings but because of the urgency of getting the North Ramp fixed, the focus has been on that. She suggested that Parks and Recreation might be a committee to work on this project. She said that there are people out there who would donate and/or work on the dock, but the community is waiting for leadership. T. Wybranowski said he would talk to the township lawyer to see what is possible legally.

C. Plaunt said to help eliminate issues with transportation, he wanted to make people understand that he would like everybody to work together to make running schedules easier for all concerned. He also said he thought that the teleconferencing at this meeting was easier to hear. He indicated that they have gotten a new mandate that says everyone will have to wear masks on the deck of the boat this year. He does not think it will be necessary if passengers are in their car, but he will post what the actual mandate will be.

L. Phillips said that as to the teleconferencing meetings which are difficult to hear at times, the Township Board is looking at using Zoom in the future.

Next meeting will be Saturday, March 13, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. via teleconference.

Motion made by D. Balbaugh to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. Second by P. Jahn. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Canup, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, D. Carter, P. Jahn, T. Wybranowski, C. Suchner. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by,

Betty Hutchinson
Recording Secretary

APPROVED March 13, 2021, by Bois Blanc Township Harbor Commission