

BOIS BLANC TOWNSHIP HARBOR COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

March 13, 2021

Bois Blanc Township – via Teleconference

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Chris Suchner, at 10:31 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Don Balbaugh (via phone-Engadine) Paul Jahn (via phone-Cheboygan), Richard Berger (via phone-Bois Blanc Island), Brent Canup (via phone-Milford), Dave Carter (via phone-Commerce Township), Tom Wybranowski (via phone-Naples, Florida) Chris Suchner (via phone-Fremont). Also present: Larry Phillips, Harbormaster (via phone-Bois Blanc Island), Betty Hutchinson, Recording Secretary (via phone-Cheboygan), Curt Plaunt (via phone-Cheboygan).

Motion made by D. Balbaugh to approve Minutes of February 13, 2021, as presented. Second by D. Carter. 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 work on Brightwaters Park should be in place by the middle of August. He is working on a quote from Flotation Docks. The docks and bubblers came through the winter well. Cutters went through the straits this week and the ice is moving. He is also working on the job description for the new position, which will be an assistant harbormaster. He will send information when completed to the commission members.

Finances. T. Wybranowski said that as of February 28, the marine financials are \$461,753, and half of that is budgeted to be spent. There is also the \$100,000 for Brightwaters Park. The Township has also made another payment on the river property.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting schedule. C. Suchner said he would like to change the meeting schedule from meetings all year to meetings May through December, with winter meetings as needed. Curt said he would like to see the meetings continue to be available online so that people can still attend meetings if they are not able to be on the Island. Group agreed.

Motion made by C. Suchner to recommend to Bois Blanc Township Board of Directors that the meeting schedule be revised to convene meetings May through December, with January through April meetings convened as needed, and continue to have call-in meetings for those who cannot attend meetings in person. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Canup, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, D. Carter, P. Jahn, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski. Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

C. Suchner said he would like the commission to consider the issue with Carl Miller and Tom Lower boat slips for 2020. As they were not able to use their slips as needed last year, he would like to recommend that the Township refund 50% of their slip fees for 2020. After discussion, the group agreed.

Motion made by C. Suchner to recommend to the Bois Blanc Township Board of Directors that slip fees from Carl Miller and Tom Lower be refunded by 50% for 2020 due to the difficulty of using their slips. Second by D. Balbaugh. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Canup, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, D. Carter, P. Jahn, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski. **Motion carried.**

Comments from Members of the Harbor Commission.

B. Canup said he would like to check with Cheboygan as to their long-term plans for the river front and also look at any prints Bois Blanc Township has done for the new property. P. Jahn will send him a phone number of people to talk to regarding any plans for the Cheboygan river front. C. Plaunt asked if they would be able to see any prints done for the river property. T. Wybranowski said there are no prints, but there is a letter outlining what needs to be done. An engineering firm needs to be hired before prints can be done.

Public Comment

Kathy Brown listed her concern regarding a letter sent to Plaunt Transportation regarding changing the ferry schedule to accommodate the service schedule for the Coast Guard Chapel. The Harbor Commission had not received this letter. As this subject was discussed at the February 13, 2021, meeting and referred to Plaunt Transportation, any further requests for information should be addressed to the Township office.

Beth Beson said she heard the Township meeting where this issue was discussed and, it was brought up by clerk at the township meeting that, according to the Plaunt Transportation contract, this request must be sent to Plaunt Transportation, in writing. Therefore, a letter was sent to Plaunt Transportation, by the Township, regarding the request for schedule change.

C. Plaunt was concerned that if the Harbor Commission changes its schedule to no winter meetings, any information needed by the Commission, such as schedule change request, would not be available for discussion. C. Suchner reiterated that if there are items to be acted upon, meetings will be held during the winter.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

Motion made by C. Suchner to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. Second by D. Balbaugh. 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