

HAINES ALASKA NEWS AND COMMENT

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Haines Considers Changes to Harbor Ordinances

Harbor Advisory Committee and harbormaster seek expanded authority

By Roger Maynard

The Haines Borough Assembly met Tuesday evening as a committee of the whole, to discuss proposed changes to Title 16 of the Haines Borough Code, "Harbors."

Much of the one-hour meeting was consumed by presentations by Haines Harbormaster Ed Barrett and Boat Harbor Advisory Committee members Bill Rostad and Jim Studley, who presented the assembly with a proposed rewrite of Haines Borough Code Title 16.

"A lot of the work on this revision of Title 16 was done before I got here," explained Barrett. The draft ordinance tries to update some language and solve some problems in the code, and "there is an effort to draw in the port facility as well."

The harbormaster is currently responsible not only for the harbor facility, but for management of barge traffic at the present Lutak port facility, and federally mandated port security at the Port Chilkoot dock when cruise ships are in port.

Jim Studley elaborated, "We have a great committee and we'd really like to expand it." Studley is not in favor of an "enterprise fund" to manage port facilities, and suggests that the Boat Harbor Advi-



Photo by Roger Maynard

In the foreground is Haines harbor.

sory Committee be changed to the "Ports and Harbors Planning Committee," with authority over port facilities, including the Lutak dock and the Port Chilkoot dock. Studley also suggested the committee be expanded to include representatives of businesses that use the facilities such as AML.

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SEARHC Offers Free Child Seat Safety Fitting

Tuesday, Sept 13 from 3-6 p.m. at Haines Police Dept.

SEARHC News Release

Parents, do you know if your young child is safe in the car when you are driving? Do you know the current state laws regarding child car seats?

The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), in partnership with the Haines Police Department and Safe Kids Alaska, will offer a free child car seat fitting event from 3 - 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, at the Haines Police Department (213 Haines Highway). Certified child passenger safety technicians will be available to help parents make sure their child passenger seats are the proper fit for their car and

that they meet the child car seat requirements of state law. A limited number of child car seats are available for those in need (donations are requested).

Fitting a child's car seat is difficult because there is wide variety of car seat designs and motor vehicle types, and children come in all sizes, shapes and behaviors. It's no wonder that only 17 percent of the more than 1,500 car seats in Alaska checked by certified child passenger safety technicians (from October 2007 to September 2008) were properly installed. An improperly fit child car seat significantly raises the

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Haines Borough Assembly Meeting Notes

By Roger Maynard

The following comments are presented as a service so our readers can stay informed on local current events, and do not constitute the minutes or official record of any meeting. Meeting minutes, agenda, and other documents are available at the Haines Borough web site.

Present at the Haines Borough Assembly meeting on Tuesday, August 24, 2011 were Mayor Jan Hill and borough manager Mark Earnest and assembly members Daymond Hoffman, Steve Vick, Scott Rossman, Jerry Lapp, and Joanne Waterman. Borough Clerk Julie Cozzi was present, as well as Chief of Police Gary Lowe.

Public Comments

Stephanie Scott spoke regarding development of the Lutak port facility, and recommended against entering into a position where we are competing with the Port of Skagway. Instead, Haines and Skagway should work together for mutual benefit. Haines needs to look to markets beyond the Yukon, since we are the "short route to Alaska".

Jerry Ernie said he would be happy to see the rec center on the ballot, but the issue needs clearer wording because the proposed ordinance is not specific enough.

Ned Rozbicki said that the Chamber of Commerce has, on several occasions, requested a detailed report from the borough manager regarding the status of borough facilities, showing which need maintenance, repair or replacement. The Chamber has not received the requested information yet.

Joe Poor said he is concerned about the decision of the assembly to demolish the old school building at Main and Third. He passed out a proposal to refurbish the building and use it as a vocational training school.

Sally McGuire said that she is concerned about the recall issue being on the consent agenda. Most people in the room have read Deborah Vogt's letter in opposition to the recall, and she doesn't think the assembly should "rubber-stamp it." She believed the people of Haines have the right to question the recall. She said, "If that means there has to be a special election later, so be it."

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Hill spent the last 1-1/2 days in Sitka and learned that our problems in Haines are not unique. Other communities have similar issues. She wanted to thank Chief Lowe for addressing an issue of vital concern—underage drinking in Haines. There will be a work group session on August 31 at the Chilkat Center and the format will be of a round-table discussion. She hopes this will get the attention of the community.

Public Hearings

Ordinance 11-07-272, an Ordinance of the Haines Borough providing for the addition or amendment of specific line items to the FY12 Budget was passed unanimously with an amendment. The ordinance includes \$125,000 for matching funds to purchase and improve Picture Point. \$62,500 will come from economic development funds; \$62,500 will come from capital improvement funds.

Borough Manager's Report

The manager's report is available online, and contains discussions regarding the Picture Point purchase, DOT Highway improvements, and port development.

Barbara Sheinberg gave an update on the comprehensive plan development.

Borough clerk Julie Cozzi gave a presentation on updates to the borough ordinance database that make the system easier to use and should

improve productivity for the borough staff.

Government Services Committee member Steve Vick appealed for more members since there are only two on the committee at present.

Tourism Director Tanya Carlson gave an overview of the department's progress toward identifying the most effective advertising campaigns using Internet technology such as Google Analytics. This analysis is producing some interesting results. For instance, highest number of hits from Europe on the website are coming from Germany. With direct flights from Germany to Whitehorse, many German tourists are ending up in Haines. Next year those flights are projected to increase. This will help to focus future marketing efforts.

Resolutions

Resolution 11-08-298, a Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly placing a question on the October 4, 2011 ballot to ask the voters if they wish to recall assembly member Joanne Waterman, pursuant to a properly certified recall petition passed unanimously. *(This is required by state law, and is basically a rubber-stamp action by the assembly.)*

Resolution 11-08-299, a Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly placing a question on the October 4, 2011 ballot to ask the voters if they wish to recall assembly member Daymond Hoffman, pursuant to a properly certified recall petition passed unanimously.

Resolution 11-08-300 a Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly placing an advisory question on the October 4, 2011 General Election ballot regarding the funding of a community center and recreation facility was tabled, effectively keeping it off the October 4th ballot.

(Continued on page 4)

Haines Borough Code More Usable Online

Several changes make research, downloading easier

By Roger Maynard

Recent changes to the Haines Borough Code online by the publishing company have made it easier for computer users in Haines to access and use the borough code. In a presentation at the borough assembly meeting, Clerk Julie Cozzi demonstrated some of the added capabilities to the system.

Some of the features include:

- Easier navigation, including direct links from the code to applicable Alaska statutes.
- More sophisticated techniques to limit search scope and to search multiple chapters at the same time.

- Searches can be saved, to be repeated later.
- The user can now view and download specific sections of code in the form of PDF files or word processing documents that can be edited.
- Tables in the code now have scrolling headers, so that column headers do not disappear from view as the user scrolls downward.
- A “non-frame” view of the site allows users to view the code with other devices such as PDAs, phones and iPads.
- A CD with the code that functions just like the online version can be purchased for a small fee, so that users do

not have to be online to access the ordinances.

According to Cozzi the changes will benefit the public, and should prove to be a real time-saver for employees who are using the database for research, or who are downloading portions of the code to be written into a proposed ordinance.

Future changes will include the ability to actually view the original code changes with signatures.

The borough is also looking at a future re-work of the entire Haines Borough website to modernize the appearance and make it more usable.

Coast Guard Medevacs Cruise Ship Passenger Near Juneau

USCG press release

A Coast Guard Air Station Sitka MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew medevaced a 70-year-old man from Gustavus near Glacier Bay 46 miles to Juneau Tuesday evening.

Coast Guard District 17 command center watchstanders received a call from the crew of the 625-foot cruise ship *Statendam* requesting a medevac of

the man who was reportedly suffering symptoms of congestive heart failure.

The command center directed the launch of the helicopter crew at 8:23 p.m. The helicopter crew arrived at the Gustavus airport at 9:15 p.m.

The *Statendam* crew transported the patient from the cruise ship to awaiting emergency medical services on

shore via their small boat. The EMS then took the patient to the airport and safely transferred him to the helicopter crew at 9:45 p.m.

The helicopter crew flew from Gustavus and arrived at the Juneau airport at 10:35 p.m. where local EMS transported the patient to Bartlett Regional Hospital for further medical care.

SEARHC CHILD SEAT FITTING

risk of injury or death for a child, and motor vehicle crashes account for 42 percent of all unintentional childhood injury-related deaths.

Alaska’s child passenger seat laws don’t just apply to infants. Since 2009, Alaska law has required that all children between the ages of 4 and 8 years of age (who are shorter than 4 feet, 9 inches tall or

weigh less than 65 pounds) be properly secured in an approved booster seat or child seat. A seat belt is not enough to comply with state law. Parents also are held accountable to make sure that all children younger than 16 years old are properly restrained in the car.

For more information about this special child car seat fitting event in Haines, contact the

Haines Police Department at 766-2121. To learn more about the importance of a properly fit child car seat, go to <http://www.carseatsak.org/>.

To learn more about scheduling a free car seat fitting with SEARHC, contact Health Advocate Lorena Gray of the SEARHC Southeast Alaska Child Passenger Safety Program at 364-4456 or lorena.gray@searhc.org.

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ASSEMBLY NOTES

(Continued from page 2)

Although members Hoffman, Vick and Waterman expressed strong support for a recreation center, the consensus was that the wording was too vague to present to voters. Members who expressed enthusiasm for the project mentioned the recent community survey in which a majority of people ranked a recreation center high on the list of community needs.

Resolution 11-08-301, authorizing the borough manager to

contract with L & B Projects to replace the carpeting in the Sheldon Museum for \$41,428.00 passed unanimously.

Resolution 11-08-302, authorizing the borough manager to negotiate a contract with Office Supply Centre to purchase a Kyocera copier for an amount not to exceed \$14,180 CA, passed unanimously.

The request from Ugliers of Haines, Inc. for sales tax exemption status, authorizing the borough clerk to issue an exemption certificate was approved unanimously.

Meeting Dates

The Government Affairs Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. on August 30 in the Assembly Chambers.

Public Comments

Ned Rozbicki restated the Chamber of Commerce's request for information from the borough manager.

Stephanie Scott said that on September 27-29 the Alaska Rural Energy Conference will meet in Juneau, and she suggested this would be an opportunity to send some school students to learn more about energy in Alaska. The borough has sent representatives in the past.

HAINES HARBOR

The committee is also recommending that the harbormaster and his staff be designated as "peace officers," since they enforce harbor and parking rules at the waterfront.

Jim Studley said, "Imagine a parking problem or a boat problem and the police don't respond..." and said that giving the harbormaster the title of peace officer would command more respect.

Barrett said that according to code the harbormaster is required to enforce laws in the code, and sometimes people can get belligerent, saying, "Fourth degree assault on a person is one thing, but assault on a police officer is something else." He reasons that "a meter maid is a peace officer, and school

teachers and postal workers are protected," and since the harbor employees enforce laws and write citations they should be entitled to the same protection.

During discussion Jerry Lapp said he has a number of questions about this issue and asked if the harbormaster's duties would require them to carry a gun and handcuffs, and if they would be required to undergo additional training. Members of the committee were unclear, but said they didn't think any additional training would be required.

Other issues discussed included live-aboards in the harbor, which all of the committee members referred to as "a problem," and the issue of discriminating for or against certain user groups such as sailboats.

Jim Studley said that his good friend [Rep. Bill Thomas] wants a commercial preference in the

harbor—fishing boats should be preferred over sailboats—but there is no way that the committee can do that. The committee did include in the changes, a preference for U.S.-owned boats over Canadian users.

Barrett explained that he is familiar with other harbors who have attempted a preference for commercial users, and those harbors were notified by the federal government that they could lose federal funding if they discriminate among users.

The assembly agreed that the rewrite of Title 16 was too big an issue to debate in one meeting. They will be giving their individual questions and recommendations to the harbor advisory board in writing, and recommended the public do the same.

The Boat Harbor Advisory Committee has not yet set a date for their next meeting; however, harbormaster Barrett


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reports that it will be in early October.

The Boat Harbor Advisory Committee consists of Mike Mackowiak, Dean Risley, Jim Studley, Bill Rostad, Norm Hughes, harbormaster Ed Barrett and assemblywoman Joanne Waterman (ex-officio).

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