

**VERMILION PORT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

July 8, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: D. Miklos, P. Corogin, T. Sommer, J. Hauck, H. Riddle  
*Present:* B. Yancar, PORT OPERATIONS MGR; F. Loucka, COUNCIL  
REP.  
*Guests:* Mayor Forthofer

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Todd Sommer, Chairman called the meeting of July 8, 2021, to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**T. Sommer MOVED;** D. Miklos seconded to approve the meeting minutes of June 10, 2021. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Correspondence:**

B. Yancar noted that he received communication from Randy Strauss identifying they released the numbers for the algae bloom in Lake Erie this year and their forecast is quite good. It is 3 out of a 10.5 scale and the lower the better.

**Financial Review:**

B. Yancar provided a recap of the Statement of Cash from Revenue and Expense at the close of May. He explained the cash revenue in Fund 214 is \$52,839.73 and the ending balance is \$51,718.48. In 2020 at this time, they were sitting on \$34,114.31, so they are in a better financial position from an operating standpoint. The 411 account remains unchanged, and they are still sitting on \$9,475.01 and the dredging grant account has not changed, and the balance is still \$16,404.99 and what will happen to this is yet to be determined.

He provided the port members with detailed expenses and at the end of May they are sitting on expenses of \$14,141.00, which is direct labor costs. In 2020 at this time, they were at \$10,928, so they have increased their labor costs up to the end of May by \$4,400. He said they have done more internal repairs along with the startup of McGarvey's and repairing the docks at Water Works for buoyancy. He said currently they are at \$43,184 in expenses for 2021 and in 2020 they were at \$33,293, so they are up \$9,800. The major impact is the fact that they had to pay property tax that was paid in June that they did not have in June of 2020. Overall, their expenses other than labor are slightly down from 2020.

According to the Cash Position report it reflects the latest deposit made. So far, they have taken in \$79,553.78 up to June and in 2020 it was \$69,933, so they are up \$10,000. Overall, the total revenue is \$90,343.78.

He addressed the report comparison between the marinas. He explained that Water Works Marina has received \$9,912 to date and the three-year average was \$10,257 and the average for 2021 is \$12,653, so they are up \$2,300. If you compare 2020 to 2021, they are up 60%. McGarvey's is starting to pick up more and the three-year average was \$1,504 and so far, this year they have brought in \$3,070, so they are up 104%. Comparing 2020 to 2021, it is almost 3,000%. The South Street Launch Ramp took in \$8,507 in June. The three-year average is \$18,246.50 and so far, they are at \$21,875, so they are up about 20%. If you compare all numbers for each marina, they are up almost 23% in revenue.

### **Port Operations Activity Report:**

B. Yancar provided the board members with an updated activity report and identified items open for discussion. He said they have several people who want to donate benches for Water Works. They are purchasing the benches at the agreed price of \$3,000. He explained he developed a mission statement and policy for accepting gifts and memorials. Mayor Forthofer thought the Parks Board developed a policy for bench placement for five years with it being at the discretion of the authority after that for the natural life of the bench. P. Corogin said the board addressed this at last month's meeting with regards to a five-year term. H. Riddle asked who approves this. P. Corogin said the Port Authority should approve this and they can acknowledge their appreciation to the people who are donating the bench. B. Yancar said he borrowed the Parks policy, but he will revisit the duration of the bench and then will prepare a final draft for review by the board. P. Corogin thought the Port could be in tandem with the Parks Board.

B. Yancar acknowledged they are advertising the Dancing at the Docks in the Photojournal. This is scheduled for July 16 from 7 – 10 p.m.

He addressed the Duck Race by possibly going with a golf cart as the prize versus a cash prize. T. Sommer distributed a picture of a golf cart from Naples Golf Carts. This golf cart is street worthy, and all four seats face forward. He said it reminds him of a mini coup that he grew up with when he was in his teens. It is operated by a lithium battery, and it goes up to about 38-40 mph, and it has turn signals, headlights, etc. He contacted the company and is waiting for a returned call. In the meantime, he contacted Craig Riddle who is in the golf cart business in Atlanta and there is a tremendous shortage of new golf carts. He said this particular golf cart is between \$14,000 - \$16,000 and as soon as he gets more information, he will share it with the port members. He said the top of the cart comes off and it is relatively low to the ground. J. Hauck said this golf cart is neat and he was talking with Peter the other day on something similar to this. It is like a Jeep knockoff, and they are made in India. T. Sommer said all the parts to this golf cart are made outside the country and are assembled in the United States, so they qualify to be street worthy. J. Hauck said this is a unique product that will bring some excitement. T. Sommer said a new golf cart is around \$13,000 retail; wholesale is more in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

J. Hauck thought they could command a higher ticket price for this golf cart because it is unique. B. Yancar said he checked with Midway Golf Carts and the golf cart that was raffled by the Chamber of Commerce was refurbished. He said they have one gas golf cart at Midway for \$10,000. He said they have new electric golf carts, and the prices range from \$8,000 - \$10,000. He said once T. Sommer's gets some numbers, they can decide. He said he found a printer that can print the Duck Race tickets. P. Corogin asked what the Chamber sold their golf cart raffle tickets for. B. Yancar said \$50, and they sold 400 tickets. It was stated on the ticket, that if they did not sell the 400, then it would become a 50/50 raffle. He said they will want to expedite these decisions as September is coming soon.

B. Yancar said he received an inquiry from a Charter Captain for a 50' charter boat in the September timeframe. He said they have not had a charter dock since 2017. Back at that time the rate per day was \$12 a day (\$375/month). He compared this to a lease since they would get all the amenities, so he asked the port members if they wanted to charge \$15 per day. P. Corogin asked when in September they wanted to come in. B. Yancar said after the Duck Race. T. Sommer liked the idea because the boat traffic drops down severely after Labor Day. J. Hauck said with inflation he thought the \$15 was fair. P. Corogin asked what the official date of the Duck Race is. B. Yancar said it is September 12.

**D. Miklos MOVED**, to allow the Charter Boat to come in at a rate of \$15.00 per day after the Duck Race. Discussion: H. Riddle said \$15 a day is pretty cheap! T. Sommer said a typical head boat is around \$60 a day – this was on Miss Cindy out of Port Clinton, and they may have 30 people on board. He said they have the expense of fuel, etc. P. Corogin asked if they had records of what McGarvey's did previous to 2020. D. Miklos said in September of 2018, McGarvey's did \$3,210, so this was previous to the water issues and pandemic. P. Corogin and H. Riddle thought \$15.00 was light. H. Riddle said she cannot even imagine docking for \$15.00 a day anywhere, especially a 50' boat. T. Sommer said they are going off past experience when Miss Cindy was here for four years straight. He said they do not use any power and it is simply the boat being in the space. P. Corogin said the customers use the restroom. P. Corogin agreed with Heidi as he felt \$15.00 per day is not enough and thought she had a valid point. H. Riddle said even at \$25.00 a day it is 50 cents a foot – this is ridiculously cheap. B. Yancar said the lease rate per day is \$18.75. J. Hauck said they could have more wear and tear on the bathroom and staff cleaning would be more intense verses the average. T. Sommer asked B. Yancar to find out who this Charter Captain is and where he is coming from because restrooms will be made available to them, so there are some costs for maintenance of the restrooms. He also would like to know if he needs electricity. He said weather is always a factor so they may not have seven glorious days a week. This issue was tabled until next month.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**D. Miklos MOVED**, P. Corogin seconded to amend Bill Yancar's expense report from June in the amount of \$389.35. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

**P. Corogin MOVED**, H. Riddle seconded to approve Bill Yancar's July expenses in the amount of \$191.44. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

D. Miklos addressed the activity report and asked for the status of the McGarvey's WIFI installation. B. Yancar said the drops/connecting points were in the McGarvey's storage building and trailer. The newer system for greater coverage is an external system and it was installed outside of the building on top of the storage building. It was questioned if this was the best position. P. Corogin said the Port Authority did not have any input on where to mount it. He thought it would have been better to put it somewhere else to blend in with other stuff. He said the city's IT is working overtime and understands they were trying to get it done for them for the season. He thought maybe in time they could relocate it to a permanent and more appropriate location. Mayor Forthofer thought IT could revisit this to see if there was a better place to put it.

F. Loucka said the west pier coming into the harbor is sad and they need to look into anti-graffiti paint. He mentioned the welcome sign was gone and there is graffiti all over it. P. Corogin agreed they should get out there and paint it. B. Yancar said they never installed the welcome sign this season because they did not have anything to reinstall it.

F. Loucka said there just a few feet south of Norm Ruess' marina it is only three or four feet deep in the middle of the river, so it might be time to start lobbying for a grant to dredge the rest of the river up to the Olympic Club since it has not been done for five or six years.

**T. Sommer MOVED**; D. Miklos seconded to adjourn the regular meeting upon no further business coming before the board. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Next meeting: The Port Authority scheduled their next meeting for August 12, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio.

Transcribed by Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk