

Harbor Commission Minutes

The Greater Dunkirk Area Harbor Commission meeting was held Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room – City Hall.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Nichols ● Gene Pauszek ● Ken Kuwik ● Allan Zurawski
Kurt Warmbrodt ● Dennis Wolfe

Members Absent: Shaun Heenan

Others Present: Patty Pleszewski, Secretary, Parks & Recreation Department ● Zen Olow ● Jeff Gambino ● Gib Snyder, Observer ● Mike Rosing ● Carson J. Leikam, Manager of NRG ● Cory Wells

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Nichols. Motion to approve March 21, 2012 minutes by Al Zurawski. Seconded by Kurt Warmbrodt. All voting aye. Carried.

New Business:

Mr. Carson Leikam, Manager of the Dunkirk and Tonawanda plant spoke to the Harbor Commission regarding his perspective on the company's financial difficulties, the PILOT program and the future of the NRG in Dunkirk. Mr. Leikam said that there has been talk with the County IDA, political people and also Senator Cathy Young. Mr. Leikam told the Commission members that he didn't want anyone to get the wrong idea about NRG. "NRG isn't going to skip out on any obligations that we have." Mr. Leikam said it's not our belief that once all that's said and done that the plant is going to close. Our belief is that based on reliability needs that have been brought forward by both the NYS ISO and National Grid through studies that have already been done. This is a very important generating asset for the reliability of the grid in New York State. Mr. Leikam said; although we have no intentions on closing, with the current economic situation, we need to weather the storm. Commission member Kurt Warmbrodt asked what the current status of the plant was. Mr. Leikam responded that that are running one of the small units - Unit #2.

"National Grid, being the transmission owner-operator in this part of the state, they have an obligation to make sure that the transmission lines and the generation that's in this area is suitable for maintaining the reliability of the grid." Mr. Leikam said NRG was certainly not looking to walk away, we want to be here for the long term. (a copy of detailed discussion available on cassette tape in the Recreation Office upon request). Chairman Nichols thanked Mr. Leikam for attending and informing the Harbor Commission on the assessment of the NRG Plant.

Old Business:

Mr. Jeff Gambino, owner of the Chadwick Bay Marina presented to the Harbor Commission with copies of a conceptual plan of the design work at the Chadwick Bay Marina site.

Mr. Gambino said this process has taken about 6-7 months of working with architects, the Local IDA, the Mayor's office and the City's Building Inspector. Mr. Gambino noted that he and his partner, Mike Pucci wanted to concentrate on the Chadwick Bay Marina site. Mr. Gambino noted that the cleanup process has begun over the winter months and has taken out approximately 8 roll off dumpsters and scrapped 13 old boats.

Mr. Gambino said equipment was purchased to rebuild all the docks behind the Clarion and marina. Mr. Gambino hired four workers full-time for the winter and rebuilt a total of 460 sections of dock during the winter months. Newly purchased floatation's are now on site. B-C-D are now floating completely brand new and in the water (A being the stationary dock). Remaining will be the fingers to be put back on and are hoping to have B completed by May 19th, C the following week and D completed by the third week. That will be all the docks which will be roughly 210 slips, all brand new complete with water and all new electric.

Mr. Gambino said continued progress is being made with architects on the design of the new marina building and restaurant. Mr. Gambino said he and Mr. Pucci have been working closely with the County IDA and are applying for applications through several grant funding sources. In closing, Mr. Gambino said he wants this to be a destination point in Dunkirk, a place where people can come down and enjoy their visit. Mr. Gambino thanked the Commission for their time and said; everyone has got to work together for the common good of the community and should anyone have any questions or concerns about the project, he would be happy to answer them.

Chairman Nichols asked if the *cash for cans redemption center* be allowed to bring the waste can containers on the dock again for the 2012 season. Commission member Allan Zurawski will look into the matter.

After further discussion a motion was made by Gene Pauszek to accept the conceptual plan presented to the Harbor Commission by Mr. Gambino. Seconded by Ken Kuwik. All voting 5 ayes. 1 abstaining vote by Allan Zurawski. Carried.

The next Harbor Commission meeting is scheduled for June 20th, 2012.

Motion to adjourn by Kurt Warmbrodt. Seconded by Gene Pauszek. All voting aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted

By Patty Pleszewski
Patty Pleszewski, Secretary