

**PORT & HARBORS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DATE: April 14, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Port & Harbors Advisory Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., at City Council Chambers, in Ketchikan, Alaska.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Lee Bethel | (Chairman) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Eric Lunde | (Vice-Chairman) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Jai Mahtani | Council Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Steve Wilsie | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mr. James Rhodes | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Russell Cockrum | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Eric Youngblood | - present via phone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Tom Carruth | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ms. Linda Faber | |

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Excused

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Lee Bethel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Eric Lunde | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Jai Mahtani | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Steve Wilsie | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. James Rhodes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Russell Cockrum | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Eric Youngblood | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Tom Carruth | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Linda Faber | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Harbor Staff Present:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Wayne Phillips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. James Wilson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Craig Bisson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ms. May Caguiat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr. Gavin Buendia |

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None

MINUTES: MOTION was made by Board member Linda Faber to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of the Port and Harbors Advisory Board from March 10, 2026. MOTION SECONDED by Board Member Russell Cockrum. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Electrical Pedestal Upgrades

The City Council has approved the purchase of sixteen electrical pedestals. The units are currently in production in Juneau. Installation is anticipated by fall. A minor design concern regarding door clearance was noted.

Forest Service and VFW Parking Lot Lighting

Repairs to lighting systems at the VFW parking lot and Forest Service walkway have been completed, including replacement of the lighting panel and meter. Lighting is now operational, improving safety.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Continued Discussion on Raw Fish Tax

- Funds have been utilized for safety improvements, including ladders and life rings.
- The Harbor Master indicated a potential request for future funding to replace the harbor crane.
- Members discussed the importance of demonstrating responsible use of current funds.
- Members expressed concern regarding discrepancies in distribution between the city and borough.

Identification of Additional Harbor Improvement Projects for Funding Requests

The Harbor Master shared recent efforts to secure grant funding for harbor improvements, including finger float replacements and ramp redesigns. Discussions with federal administrators indicated potential openness to expanding grant scopes to include harbor projects, though funding remains uncertain. A grant application is pending for redesign and replacement of the Mountain Point boat launch ramp.

Consideration of Finger Float Replacement

Discussions with Mr. Stephen Carmel, Administrator of the Maritime Administration and Senator Sullivan highlighted the need for grant funding for harbor finger floats and other infrastructure. The harbormaster plans to submit capital improvement project requests for finger float replacements in the fall. The administrator encouraged continued contact and expressed some willingness to consider harbor projects in future grants.

Discussion of Camera Access Policy

The Board reviewed current policy regarding access to security camera footage. Requests for footage must be processed through the Police Department and approved by the City Attorney. Cameras are intended primarily as a deterrent and have limitations in coverage and image clarity.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Port & Harbors Director Wayne Phillips reviewed/discussed the Director's report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Dogs on Docks
Harbor Ladders

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Board member Cockrum thanked everyone for doing more with less.

Board member Faber thanked everyone.

Board member Youngblood expressed appreciation to Harbor Operations Coordinator Wilson for going above and beyond by handling snow removal on the ramps.

Board member Wilsie thanked everyone.

Board member Rhodes thanked staff and all board members.

Chairman Bethel thanked everyone and apologized for missing the previous Port & Harbors meeting.

Board Member Lunde thanked staff and all board members for everything they do.

Board member Carruth thanked staff.


Council Member Mahtani thanked staff and gave kudos to the City Council for taking up the fish tax issue. They encouraged other board members and committees to identify similar opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no business the Port & Harbors Advisory Board adjourned at 7:58p.m.



Chair/Vice Chair Signature



Date