



Board of Director Regular Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2019 Recorder: Donna Halvorsen

1. **Call Meeting To Order:** Harvey Mc Donald called meeting to order at 10:01am.

2. **Roll Call:**

Chair	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	present
Vice Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	present
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	present
Director	Coffman Cove	Brian Wilson	absent
Director	Wrangell	Patricia Gilbert	present via teleconference
Director	Hydaburg	Anthony Christianson	absent
Director	At Large	Dee Dee Jeffreys	present via teleconference

Staff Present: Ron Curtis and Donna Halvorsen

Staff present via teleconference: None

Public Present: None

Public present via teleconference: None

3. **Approval of Agenda** Motion: Approve agenda as written; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Jeff Nickerson. Motion approved unanimously.

4. **Nominate and Appoint Officers** Harvey thanks everyone who has helped him with being the Chair over the many years, then open ups the floor to nominations. Harvey McDonald nominates Jeff Nickerson as Chair and seconded by Otis Gibbons, DeeDee Jeffreys nominates Otis Gibbons for Vice Chair then retracks her nomination, Otis Gibbons nominates DeeDee Jeffreys as Vice Chair seconded by Jeff Nickerson and DeeDee Jeffreys nominates Otis Gibbons as Sec/Treas and seconded by Harvey McDonald. Harvey closes nominations. Motion: Appoint nominated Officers; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Otis Gibbons. Roll call vote was taken and motion passes.

Chair	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	yes
Vice Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	yes
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	yes
Director	Wrangell	Patricia Gilbert	yes
Director	At Large	Dee Dee Jeffreys	yes

5. **Approval of Minutes** Motion: Approve minutes from June 12, 2019, June 24, 2019, July 8, 2019 as amended, July 18, 2019 and August 22, 2019; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Jeff Nickerson. Motion approved unanimously.

Harvey McDonald turns the meeting over to new Chair Jeff Nickerson at this point. Jeff thanks Harvey for all his work as Chair over the years.

6. **Public Comment** none

7. **Correspondence** none

8. **Manager's Report**

- Ron provides update on Buy America waiver progress. He met with Lisa Murkowski and her staff at Coffman Cove event and explained to them the needs of the boats to get them in compliance with USCG regulations. Ron continues that he, Walt and Steve Silver have been working together to compile data for Federal Highway Administration, and they have secured a meeting Sept 19 with the head of the Federal Highway Administrator Lauren Baker. If FHWA is happy with what's been provided to them, it would then go onto secretary Chow then on for signature by the President. Ron says he is hopeful at this point, we've complied with everything they need to move forward.
- Ron states the 250K is in budget and we now have our own line item; in the past, we were listed under the Dept of Commerce's budget. Steadman knew the Governor values public/private partnerships which He states Senator Steadman and his staff have worked hard on IFA behalf to make sure we did not get cut and having our own line item now will allow us to get through on the budget in a more efficient fashion. Harvey states the letter is very thorough and well-written, and Ron states that Walt wrote bulk of letter; kudos to Walt.
- The impact of the AMHS strike cost us about 21K in revenue lost; the strike began July 24 and ended August 3 but their ferries did not come online for about two days after strike ended. So 10-12 days of IFA ridership was effected. Otis states we'll have to look at next year and see if our stats decline from this year. He continues that people could be afraid of another strike so they decide to fly and our vehicle (and passenger) traffic could be hurt. And even worse he sates maybe they don't travel up here at all for fear of getting stuck somewhere along the way; these may be unquantifiable results. Ron will keep track. Jeff asks if we had any communication from MTM requesting runs and that if we did that might recover some revenue lost. Donna states that MTM Council requested we cover the route but we needed to be sure we weren't crossing any political lines before we proceeded. Ron states that was the intent of the 'cool down' period at beginning of strike.
- Harvey states the discontinuation of the AMHS Rupert route may have impact on us, and that we need to keep an eye on that. Ron will check on potential impacts. Ron continues that he saw some statistics and a lot of passenger and vehicle traffic is impacted and he is going to try to determine how many Rupert riders were going to travel with us and get a handle on monetary impact. He says Ketchikan will be hit hard by this too, Rupert is a major stop for fish product coming from KTN then hitting the road system.
- Patty states she is part of Wrangell Assembly and on a committee to fight the Rupert closure. She asks if anyone knew if there are any docking facilities in Hyder and if the IFA had considered taking all or a portion of that run over? She says AMHS used to run to Hyder but stopped in 1990s and asks how long the run time is. Ron says the IFA has not really discussed it, and that transit to Hyder is substantial. Donna says that Patty should contact Rich because he'll be able to address her navigation questions. Ron says that he's been riding the boat a lot and talking to passengers, crew and agents, and that he's been reviewing policies and looking at financials as a team. He continues that he is very impressed with team and we'll keep talking about things we need to get better at and talking about them as a management team and then talking to the BODs as a leadership group.
- Jeff states he's wondering if the Board should take action to write a letter to the people that have helped us during the budget negotiations. Deedee states she is planning to write a personal note to Senator Stedman and his staff. Harvey agrees, and says he has been our champion and we don't want to lose that. Jeff suggests stating in the letter that the Board took

action to send a letter thanking him. Ron says he's sent one already but something from the Board is great. Otis agrees. Harvey suggests that Ron and Donna can put something together for Jeff to sign. Motion: Write a letter to Senator Stedman, Dan Ortiz and Jonathan Tomkins and anyone else Ron thinks should receive a letter of thanks from the Board; moved by Otis Gibbons and seconded by Harvey McDonald. Motion approved unanimously.

9. Old Business

- a) Decide when to offer Driver Free for 2020. Motion: Approve that Driver Free is offered January through March 2020; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by DeeDee Jeffreys. Motion approved unanimously.
- b) Discussion of Lifetime benefit proposal as presented by IFA managers. Lifetime travel benefit policy proposal Managers came up with is fair and equitable to all Employees and is possible to implement. Harvey McDonald agrees with the proposal presented and wants to offer benefits when possible. We contacted Employees asking for input and 10 replied; all 10 supported the proposal and at least half stated they were thankful for opportunity to comment. Otis states that taking action on the Resolution is not on agenda so procedurally its best to take action on it at next meeting; he continues that there is no timeliness to the item. Jeff agrees, and requests that the Resolution 2020-04 be put on agenda for next meeting.
- c) Discussion to determine if Hydaburg seat is vacant. Harvey states that seat does not meet requirements of being vacant and that we need to write a letter to the mayor stating we need a Hydaburg representative participating in meetings. He continues that we understand the Hydaburg Director is very busy so appointing someone who can participate is necessary. Otis and Jeff suggest addressing letter to Mayor and City Council and send it to the City Clerk. Jeff agrees that making this effort is a better approach. Donna will draft letter and send to Jeff for review then send on to City of Hydaburg.

10. New Business

- a) Motion: Approve Resolution No. 2020-01 to authorize changes as amended (added Adelia Jeffreys) to list of check and note signers at First Bank and Use of Signature Stamp; moved by Otis Gibbons and seconded by Patty Gilbert. Motion approved unanimously.
- b) Motion: Approve Resolution No. 2020-02 authorizing IFA General Manager Ronald Curtis as POWERNET Account Administrator for accounts held at First Bank; moved by Otis Gibbons and seconded by Harvey McDonald. A roll call vote was taken and motion passes.

Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	yes
Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	yes
Vice Chair	At Large	Dee Dee Jeffreys	yes
Director	Wrangell	Patricia Gilbert	yes
Director	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	yes

- c) Winter Sales for 2020. Donna states its time to decide on offering Winter Sales 30% vehicle discount in January and February as we have done in the past; we've done it one day weekly and each Saturday sales for the first 5 years then last year we offered Saturday sales only. There is no definite data to confirm ridership is up because of the sales but it does provide a lot of good public relations. Harvey states the PR is important and would like Ron to keep track if this

becomes a financial burden to the IFA then we need to do something different. Jeff states it is good PR and advertising a 'sale' can encourage travel, and Otis states that Saturdays have historically been slow. Motion: Approve that IFA offers the Saturday Winter Vehicle Sale during January and February 2020; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Otis Gibbons. Motion approved unanimously.

- d) Add 3 additional no-sail holidays. Ron explains his reasoning behind no sailing on these three paid IFA holidays; ridership is low, there is relatively no impact to employees and the savings will be about \$10K. Otis expresses concern about no sailing on a 'three day weekend' like President's Day, and Ron replies that he stayed away from the busy three day weekends like Memorial Day and Labor Day but says that Federal and State employees get President's Day off and no one else. Otis agrees, and Jeff says he is glad crew gets a day off with pay and Harvey says that some like getting double pay and working the holiday. Jeff suggests trying it for a year and seeing what happens, and Otis suggests tracking public comment. Motion: Resolution 2020-03 approve of adding New Year's Day, President's Day and Independence Day as no-sail holidays; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Otis Gibbons. A roll call vote was taken and motion passes.

Sec/Tres	Craig	Otis Gibbons	yes
Vice Chair	At Large	Dee Dee Jeffreys	yes
Director	Wrangell	Patricia Gilbert	yes
Director	Thorne Bay	Harvey McDonald	yes
Chair	Klawock	Jeff Nickerson	yes

11. **Board Comments** Harvey thanks everyone for their help as Chair and that the IFA is a wonderful thing. It has made SE Alaska more accessible and improved the economy.
12. **Schedule Next Meeting** TBA but tentatively a Tuesday or Wednesday in the first 2 weeks of December 2019.
13. **Adjournment** Motion: Adjourn meeting; moved by Harvey McDonald and seconded by Otis Gibbons. Motion approved unanimously, and Jeff Nickerson adjourned meeting at 11:08am.