

**HARBOR COMMISSION BOARD MEETING
Minutes January 23, 2007**

Commissioners present: Carolyn Moffatt, Jim Blecha, Jack Scarbrough, Brian Kreowski and Drew Brandy

Commissioners absent: None

Staff present: Kirk Sturm, Harbor Manager; Steve McGrath, Facilities Manager; Casey Nielsen, Operations Manager;

Closed Session: Ty Green, Dave Cumberland and Linda Somers Smith, Legal Counsel

OPEN SESSION / ROLL CALL / PUBLIC COMMENT

President Moffatt called the Harbor Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. All Commissioners were present. There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

President Moffatt adjourned to closed session at 6:02 p.m., pursuant to Government Code Section §54956.9(a): Cohen ET AL vs. Port San Luis Harbor District; Port San Luis Harbor District vs. Barry Cohen. Pursuant to Government Code Section §54956.9(c): Possible initiation of litigation (1 potential case). Conference with legal counsel to provide direction on above. Pursuant to Government Code Section §54956.8: Property negotiations – 1976 Cohen lease; Conference to provide direction to Management on rent review. Pursuant to Government Code Section §54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiators. Harbor District Designated Representative: Ty Green or Linda Somers Smith. Unrepresented Employee: Interim Harbor Manager.

ADJOURNED TO OPEN SESSION / ROLL CALL / FLAG SALUTE

President Moffatt adjourned to open session at 7:10 p.m. All Commissioners were present. President Moffatt led the flag salute. President Moffatt announced that during closed session, the Board received updates from legal counsel.

In open session, Commissioner Kreowski moved to amend the contract for Interim Harbor Manager Sturm, changing the contract to month-to-month and clarifying the approval process, pending approval of legal counsel. Commissioner Moffatt seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

OATH OF OFFICE

Newly elected Commissioners Drew Brandy and Brian Kreowski were sworn in.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Kreowski nominated Commissioner Scarbrough for President; the nomination was declined. Commissioner Kreowski nominated Commissioner Blecha for President; Commissioner Blecha accepted the nomination. Commissioner Scarbrough seconded the nomination, which was approved unanimously 5-0. Commissioner Moffatt nominated Commissioner Kreowski for Vice President. Commissioner Scarbrough seconded the nomination, which was approved unanimously 5-0. Commissioner Brandy nominated Commissioner Scarbrough for Secretary. Commissioner Moffatt seconded the nomination, which passed unanimously 5-0.

PRESENTATION

President Blecha read Resolution 07-01, in appreciation of Commissioner Moffatt's service as Harbor Commission President, into the record. Commissioner Kreowski moved to adopt Resolution 07-01. Commissioner Scarbrough seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Blecha called for public comment. Stew Jenkins, San Luis Obispo, congratulated Commissioners Brandy and Kreowski on their election, and mentioned that the clock was ticking on the Coastal Commission's requirement for a new pier parking plan. Commissioner Kreowski said the Board recognized the work that community members put into the Coastal Commission project, traveling to the meetings at their own expense, and speaking before the Commission.

There was no further public comment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion Item A) Coastal Gateway Project: Update. Facilities Manager Steve McGrath reviewed the staff report and requested the Board form a committee to evaluate proposals for interpretive signage and exhibits and to work with the consultant on same. President Blecha appointed himself and Commissioner Kreowski to the Interpretive Signage Ad Hoc committee. No further action was required.

Discussion Item B) Public Safety Committee: Update. President Blecha introduced Dr. Ron Martinelli, the District's Public Safety consultant. Harbor Manager Kirk Sturm reviewed the documents contained in the staff report, beginning with a ten-year comparison of relevant statistics. The Board then discussed the merits of changing the standards for medical training for Harbor Patrol Officers.

President Blecha called for public comment. Stew Jenkins, San Luis Obispo, asked if such a change would affect the District's ability to obtain grants. He also asked if it would affect the officers' pay status. Harbor Manager Sturm said that the Department of Boating and Waterways doesn't have any EMT requirements. Operations Manager Nielsen said that current Harbor Patrol job description requires First Responder or EMT training at the District's discretion.

Commissioner Moffatt moved the District change Harbor Patrol medical training requirements from Emergency Medical Technician to First Responder as defined in CCR Title 22, augmented with online updates and in-service training. Commissioner Brandy seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Manager Sturm reviewed the next section of the staff report, the update on foreseeable harm and mitigation options. Dr. Martinelli said that Harbor Patrol officers are exposed to many levels of risk, and can be placed in extreme jeopardy. He further stated that under the proposed firearms policy, weapons would be for defensive force and immediate threats to life.

Lengthy discussion followed. President Blecha called for public comment. Stew Jenkins, San Luis Obispo, said that he thought it was a very good report, and said that the District has 55 square miles of water and tidelands and the public expects someone to protect them.

President Blecha stated that based on the discussion, he wanted to give the Commissioners more time to digest all the information in the staff report before the item comes back to the Board at a later date, possibly in a Public Hearing format. He further stated that the review of the Harbor Patrol's Standard Operating Procedures should wait until the use of force issue is decided.

The Board next discussed the Outreach portion of the report. President Blecha pointed out that in addition to going to schools, there are campers at Port San Luis who could be educated, as well as visitors to the Marine Institute. Commissioner Kreowski moved to use the Advertising and Promotions budget to improve Harbor Patrol outreach and initiate programs with the ultimate goal of reaching 550 new people. Commissioner Moffatt seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

President Blecha asked if anyone wished to pull any of the Consent Items, saying he was pulling Item I for Susan Vessely of San Luis Obispo. Ms. Vessely thanked the Commissioners for going to the Coastal Commission hearing in December, and thanked Stew Jenkins for speaking on public accessibility to the lighthouse. Commissioner Kreowski moved to approve Consent Items A through I. Commissioner Scarbrough seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Jim Blecha, President

Attest:

Jack Scarbrough, Secretary

Submitted by: Leslie Parsons, Administrative Secretary