

Pay Raise and Incentive Bonus for Harbormaster

August 23, 2024



Despite shouldering an enormous near- \$800,000 annual debt payments for the next decade, Harbor commissioners voted unanimously to give Harbormaster Tim Petrick a three percent raise and a cost of living adjustment raise of just over four percent. The total increase package is 7.2 percent.

With ardent financial watchdog commissioner Brian Stone absent from Tuesday's meeting, commissioners Wes White and Gerhard Weber joined commissioners/ secretary Rick Shepherd and president Harry Adams in approving the increase in base salary and incentive. Petrick's annual remuneration increased from \$125,000 to a little over \$134,000 per annum. The increase was amended from six percent to three percent after the Commission tabled the item at the previous harbor meeting.

Petrick holds a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Maritime Transportation.

Constituent Linda Sutter raised objection to the Petrick raise, citing irregularities and allegations of improper use of the Harbor credit card as well as non-compliance with annual audit requirements. The Del Norte

Grand Jury cited the improper use of the Agency credit card, due to lack of policy by the commission. Sutter requested a salary freeze pending stabilization of the Harbor's debt obligations in the wake of the Fashion Blacksmith \$2.4 million(\$531,000 annual payments to FB) lawsuit and the USDA Tsunami damage loan (\$262,000 annual payments).

Sandy Moreno, financial expert and bookkeeper also objected to the Petrick salary boost. Though crediting Petrick with securing valuable contractors and consultants in rebuilding aging infrastructure, Moreno admonished Petrick with his bullying behavior, interfacing with Harbor tenants and the public.

In other Harbor business, commissioners selected White and Shepherd to an ad hoc committee to meet with Developer Steve Opp, managing director of the Commercial Real Estate Development Enterprises (CREDE) who has assisted communities in selecting well-suited tenants to enhance revenue. Opp is credited with "... making Bandon, Bandon," said Petrick.

Harbormaster Petrick praised Opp for his reputation as a successful (commercial) "matchmaker". "He's going to help us fix ourselves," continued Petrick.

Community System Solutions Mike Bahr delivered an update and breakdown on the Sea Wall and Citizens Dock Pier, preparing for possible wind energy development and enhancing the local fisherman fleet.

Though no specific financial arrangements were discussed with CREDE, funding could be as high as \$30,000. The Harbormaster awaits the report from the Ad Hoc Committee, clarifying what deliverables will be, stated by Petrick.