

# **Meeting Minutes: Commerce Committee**

**January 16, 2024 6:30 pm– Assembly Chambers**

**Commerce Committee: Debra Schnabel (Chair), Craig Loomis & Ben Aultman-Moore**

**Attending: Schnabel, Aultman-Moore, Annette Krietzer (staff), Kiersten Long (staff), Thom Ely, Don Turner III, Jessica Forster**

The commerce committee reviews and recommends legislative and policy matters pertaining to ports and harbors, tourism, economic strategies, land and resource, and planning and zoning. This committee maintains a working relationship with empowered and advisory boards, the Haines Chamber of Commerce and the Haines Economic Development Corporation.

## **Discussion/Business Conducted**

**1. Welcome and Set agenda (Chair)**

**2. Minutes of 11/16/23 accepted without objection (Note: no mtg. in December)**

**3. Discussion/Action topics:**

**Severance Taxes on extractive resources.** Discussion re: selectivity or targeting of resources as unfair. All extractive resources should be taxed because principle is same: once removed, the benefit of the resource is gone. “Renewable” vs. “nonrenewable” is also an arguable standard, as the resource is not renewable within a human lifetime. Decision: advance a tax ordinance that taxes timber, fish, gravel, rock and ore. Decision: Tax only on resources that are exported from Borough. Outstanding issues: taxation of Borough-owned resources? Marine products: how to establish jurisdiction with mobile fleet/processors. Allowable to tax resources taken from State lands in competitive sale? Chair will prepare a draft ordinance for discussion at February meeting.

**Trails:** no discussion. See recommendations of 11/16/23

**4. Public Comment/Input:** None. Community members participated in discussion throughout.

**5. Recommendations to Assembly:** None

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm. Minutes submitted by Debra Schnabel**