

# Meeting Minutes: Commerce Committee

February 20, 2024 6:30 pm– Assembly Chambers

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

**Attending: Schnabel, Aultman-Moore, Craig Loomis, Mayor Morphet, Alekka Fullerton (staff), Jila Stuart (staff), Cindy Jimenez (HEDC), Rebecca Hylton (staff) Thom Ely, Darsie Culbeck, Liz Cornejo, Barbara Nettleton**

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

**Welcome and Set agenda**

**Minutes of 01/16/24 accepted without objection**

**Discussion/Action topics:**

**Severance Taxes on extractive resources.** Draft ordinance presented for discussion.

- Tax associated (%) with mil rate (Kodiak Island Borough)
  - Varying rates depending on level of sustainability
- Tax on production value vs. sales value
- Local sale and use exemption – export only
- Impact Fees vs. Severance Taxes
- Bonding preferable for reclamation
- Economic profile is questionable for this tax
- Trapping animals/furs

Chair to present amended draft ordinance

### **Port Development Fees**

Presentation by Tourism Director Hylton. Recommends tax to grow fund for floating dock and other infrastructure. Impact fees to mitigate costs of cruise line visitations. Sales for 2025 season already underway, so Haines should have a fee structure in place ASAP to include in ships' pricing. No action.

**4. Public Comment/Input:** Community members participated in discussion throughout.

**5. Recommendations to Assembly:** None

**Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm. Minutes submitted by Debra Schnabel**