

WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2017

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Willie Peters, President of the Port Commission. Mr. Peters gave an Invocation. Mr. Phil Bell led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present:

Absent:

Tad Blevins
Calvin Deshotel
Ralph Longman
Greg Paul
Phil Bell
Willie Peters
Joseph Tabb
Wayne Stevens

Will Terry

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. Roger Stouff of the Franklin Banner, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director and Ms. Donna Louviere, Secretary/Receptionist of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Tabb to dispense with the reading of the February 7, 2017 meeting minutes and to accept them as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Longman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Peters ask if there was any public comment - there was none.

Mr. Allain reported that the millage rate for 2017 needs to be adopted. Mr. Allain stated that the current rate is 3.720 and that the Port Commission cannot roll forward. Mr. Allain suggested that the Commission adopt the same rate of 3.720 and remain revenue neutral . A motion was made by Mr. Longman to adopt the Millage Rate for 2017 at 3.720 and remain revenue neutral. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported that he continues to work on the proposed sign at the Industrial Park. The size of the sign was changed at the last meeting due to the rights-of -way of the pipelines. The new measurements have been sent to the companies preparing quotes for the construction of the sign. The companies will be given additional time to make those changes.

Mr. Allain reported on the work being done on the Port Site Spoil area with the dredging material. The St. Mary Parish Drainage District is working on the Spoil area and are close to being completed. Mr. Allain also reported to the Commission that professional services will be needed to level the interior of the spoil area along with removing existing trees and shrubs to clean for maintenance .

Discussion followed. A motion was made by Mr. Blevins to authorize Mr. Allain to do what is needed to get the spoil area levee at the Port Site leveled. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paul and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported on Bulkhead maintenance that is needed at the Port Site. Mr. Allain explained to the Commission that the Bulkhead is in pretty bad shape. A slide presentation was shown by Mr. Allain showing the areas of concern on the bulkhead which is about 100 feet wide. Mr. Allain informed the Commission that DLS has an expansion project which will start about mid-year. DLS is asking for the Ports help to realize the expansion needs. DLS will have a lot of work coming in/out from the Intracoastal Canal and will need these improvements in order to get these jobs done. Mr. Allain explained to the Commission that DLS is asking for help with fencing, cranes and limestone. The Port of West St. Mary along with DLS is looking into the possibility of applying for a Port Priority Grant to help fund the improvements. Mr. Allain and representatives of DLS met with representatives of the Port Priority program to discuss the grant. The Port Priority money is State money that is tied to jobs and can be used for infrastructure. The grant money may also be used to repair the bulkhead adjacent to the DLS facility. DLS has met with the State and does qualify for this funding. The expansion will create additional jobs. Mr. Allain reminded the Commission that these improvements will be done on property and buildings owned by the Port of West St. Mary. Mr. Allain explained that the application for the Port Priority money has to be completed by June 2017. Mr. Allain met with a consultant regarding the preparation regarding the application and recommended that the Commission consider contraction with this consultant. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Mr. Stevens to authorize Mr. Allain to move forward with the process to get the work done for the DLS expansion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blevins. Mr. Tabb asked if the Port was guaranteed to be reimbursed for its expenditures on the project. Mr. Allain assured him that the Port would not proceed with the project until the Port's application for funds had been approved and that additional resolutions from the board would be necessary in the application process. Mr. Duplantis recommended that the Commission adopt a resolution to hire Mr. Michael Knobloch as a consultant for the application. Mr. Knobloch is familiar with the Port Priority application process and his fee for the preparation of application is \$12,750.00. Mr. Duplantis further recommended that the resolution authorize either the President or the Executive Director to execute a contract with Mr. Knobloch and to sign all necessary documents in the application process. Mr. Stevens then amended his motion to reflect the recommendations of Mr. Duplantis. The amended motion was seconded by Mr. Blevins and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain informed the Commission that he received a call from Mr. John Tesvich informing him that his property adjacent to the Port is for sale and he wanted the Commission to know before it appears in the paper. Mr. Allain explained that he did not know the price of the property and that improvements had been made to the property. Discussion followed.

Mr. Allain reported that a mistake was made at the last meeting with the Lawn Service at the LAD Building which was quoted by Mr. Allain as \$280.00 per cut and a change be made to reflect the correct amount which is \$340.00, a difference of \$60.00. Mr. Allain asked the Commission to have this amount corrected to reflect the minutes of the last meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Tabb to change the amount on the Lawn Service quote at the LAD Building from \$280.00 to \$340.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paul and carried unanimously.

Mr. Stevens asked about a Barge in the Baldwin Cut that is sinking and who has the authority to do something about it. Mr. Allain assured Mr. Stevens that he would look into it and get with the Coast Guard to do something about it.

There being no further business to be reported, a motion was made by Mr. Paul to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bell and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Signed _____
Wilson Terry, Secretary