

WEST ST. MARY PARISH POR, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Greg Paul, President of the Port Commission. Mr. Paul led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Donna Lanceslin gave the Invocation.

Present:

Joel Authement  
Sam Jones  
Donna Lanceslin  
Greg Paul  
Willie Peters  
Joe Phillips  
Joseph Tabb  
Will Terry

Absent:

Murphy Pontiff

Mr. Paul introduced Mr. Joel Authement as the newly appointed Commissioner to the Port Board and Mr. Authement was welcomed by the Commission.

Also present at the meeting were: Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche of Talk, Mr. Jude Hebert of CLECO, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director, Ms. Brandy Pennison, Administrative Assistant and Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Tabb to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 4, 2022 meeting and to accept them as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Allain presented Mr. Wilson Terry a plaque in appreciation of the two terms he served as President of the Board of Commissioners for the years, 2018 through 2021.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Allain reported that significant progress has been made with the lease between the Port and Louisiana Sugar Growers for warehouses to be built at the Port's Baldwin facility. He added that all parties have agreed to the terms and are currently working on the attachments to the lease. He said that he hopes to sign the lease within the next few weeks.

Mr. Allain reported that the Port's water plant received a violation from the Louisiana Department of Health for the lack of a second water well to supply water to the water plant. Mr. Allain reported that he has submitted an application to the American Rescue Act for funding to install a second water well and is awaiting a response regarding the status of that application. LDH has set a 90 day period to

correct the violations and has given the Port an option to notify the customers served by the Port's water plant that the Port only has one well and that if something should happen to the well, the customers should have a three day supply of water. He explained that during the last issue with the well, it was repaired within 18 hours. Mr. Allain recommended that the Port send the letters to the water customers advising them that the Port has only one water well and that the Port is working on the installation of an additional well. Mr. Tabb made a motion that the Port provide notice to the water customers as recommended by Mr. Allain. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported that he has spoken with Mr. Daniel Edgar, a local businessman, who is actively looking for a building located on a waterfront that would be available for immediate occupancy. Mr. Allain added that the Port does not have such a building but that he has been working with Mr. Daniel to find a location. Mr. Allain asked the Commission that if anyone had knowledge of any buildings with waterfront property to please let him know.

Mr. Allain also met with Mr. Evan Boudreaux with the St. Mary Parish Office of Economic Development recently. Mr. Boudreaux is in the process of updating the parish's website and told him of his plans for a mail out to promote St. Mary Parish. Mr. Allain also spoke to a business in Florida – Siemens, a leader in the renewable energy industry, was in contact with Mr. Steve Delahunt of the Cabot Corporation and Mr. Larry Hairston with Fernstrum, a manufacturer of cooling marine propulsion engines. Mr. Allain also spoke with a representative of L & D Railroad regarding transloading opportunities. Mr. Paul inquired about a study that was performed in an area near the Port for the possible location of wind turbines. Mr. Allain explained that the area near the Port was comparable to areas near Abbeville and Cameron where wind turbines are located and that there were attempts to bring them into St. Mary Parish. Discussion followed.

Mr. Allain requested that Mr. Reid Miller give an update on the status of the Training Facility at the Port's Baldwin facility. Mr. Miller reported that two exterior doors were delivered today, all of the plumbing is in place and all of the electrical is in place. He further reported that flooring and painting remains to be done. He said that plans are to have everything completed within the next week to two weeks and to accept the building for substantial completion. He further reported that there will be one deduct of the welding booths as they will not be received until or April or May due to a back log and that all materials to install everything are on site. The Contractor will issue a deduct Change Order for installation of the welding booths and once the booths are received, they will be installed. The building will be in a position to occupy for classroom purposes. Mr. Allain reported that he has been touch with representatives of the Training Facility and plans are being made. Mr. Allain reported that the cost of Wind, Hail, Fire and Liability insurance for the building is \$13,410.32 annually. He said that it was brought to his attention that it is difficult to insure commercially in the parish. Mr. Allain recommended purchasing the insurance for the Training Facility. A motion was made by Mr. Terry to purchase the insurance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters. Mr. Jones asked who the insurance was with and Mr. Allain answered that the insurance was with Stiel Insurance. Mr. Jones recommended that Port contact Louisiana Citizen's Insurance and Mr. Allain said that they had been contacted and it was significantly high. Mr. Jones recommended that the Port explore higher deductible. Mr. Jones motioned to amend the motion to seek higher deductibles. Mr. Paul asked if there was any more discussion or opposition – there was none. The amended motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones requested that Mr. Allain inquire about property possibly for sale on the Charenton Canal owned by Diversified Environmental. Mr. Allain said that he would inquire about the property.

Mr. Allain reported that the Port's regularly monthly scheduled for Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> is Mardi Gras Day and requested that the meeting date be changed to Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. He said that he would send out notices to advise the meeting date change.

EDA/Training Facility – A motion was made by Mr. Jones to approve Contractor's Pay Request #11 in the amount of \$142,387.10 as per the recommendation of Miller Engineers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones to approve Miller Engineers Request for Payment #13 for Professional Services in the amount of \$5,084.72. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tabb. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Tabb to issue a Letter of No Objection to the Corps of Engineers as requested by Mr. Edgar Dugas, III. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lanceslin. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding a request for a Letter of No Objection from St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer No. 4, Mr. Authement abstained from discussion and action on this item as he is a Board Member of Water District No. 4. A motion was made by Mr. Jones to issue a Letter of No Objection to the Corps of Engineers as requested by St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer No. 4. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried with Mr. Authement abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Jones added that St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer No. 4 received a \$7 million grant recently.

Mr. Duplantis reminded the Commissioners that Financial Disclosures reports are due by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and Ethics and Preventing Sexual Harassment Training must be completed by the end of the year. He also reminded the Commissioners to send a copy of their certificates to the Port Commission office.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Mr. Terry to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Murphy Pontiff, Secretary