

WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2023

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. Lanceslin gave the Invocation. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present:

Absent:

Joel Authement  
Greg Paul  
Joseph Phillips  
Donna Lanceslin  
Wilson Terry  
Joseph Tabb  
Murphy Pontiff  
Sam Jones  
Joe Foulcard, Jr.

Also present at the meeting were Mr. Eddie Bodin, Mr. Clarence Vappie, Mayor of Baldwin, Mr. Mark Duhon, Mr. Steven Link, Mr. Nathan Donnelly, Mr. Jack Leesnitzer, Mr. Don Caffery, Jr., Mr. Don Caffery, III, Mr. Bill Bourgeois, Attorney, Mr. Andrew Allain, Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Mr. John Trahan, Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director, Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission and Ms. Brandy Pennison, Administrative Assistant.

A motion was made by Mr. Tabb to dispense with the reading of the May 2, 2023 meeting minutes and to accept them as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Paul introduced Joe Foulcard, Jr. as the new commissioner and welcomed him to the Board.

Mr. Steven Link of IBV Energy introduced proposed routes for Transmission lines for the Bayou Teche Solar Project. He stated that the project called Bayou Teche Solar is in mid-development and is going to be situated and cross the bayou into the new Cleco substation. He is proposing that the Port consider several routes to be considered. The preferred routes he suggested would not impact any future developments in the Port District that were outlined on a map which was passed around. The proposal was to run the transmission line at the north end of the Baldwin Bridge and cross over. Discussion followed. Mr. Jack Leesnitzer pointed out where certain structures would be located and whether they should look into potential on the southern side of the property, which would be less impactful into

existing lines. Mr. Tabb asked when the project would be constructed. Mr. Link stated that the project would not be constructed until 2025. Mr. Terry made a motion to table the discussion until another time and Mr. Tabb seconded the motion. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Concerning the Sugar Warehouse/LA DOTD – Project H.014893 (322) -Mr. Jones made a motion to consider and take action on a resolution certifying compliance with the public bid laws. Mr. Pontiff seconded the motion. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones made a motion to consider and take action on a resolution to award the project to ARL Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$10,726,733.98. Mr. Pontiff seconded the motion. Mr. Tabb abstained from voting on this motion. The motion carried.

Concerning the SBA Lease – Mr. Bourgeois stated that after discussing the lease with SBA and Mr. Allain, the path to go forward is to take the existing lease and make a few changes that both parties will agree to. He recommended that the Board President be authorized to sign the lease agreement which will take effect on July 2, 2023, subject to legal approval. Mr. Authement made the motion to authorize Mr. Paul to sign the lease, subject to legal approval, by July 2, 2023. 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 concerning the White Building at the Baldwin Campus, The Port has been storing sugar in it for the last three years and it has been in need of repairs. He will get estimates on the repairs and let the Board know when he has them.

Mr. Allain stated that the Industrial Park is in need of a gate with signs to discourage people from loitering on that property. The Port already has the gate and personnel to erect the gate. Mr. Paul stated that this has been discussed before with approval, so he said to go ahead and erect the gate and signs.

Mr. Allain stated that the restrooms at the port are not compliant with ADA standards and ARL Construction has been to the Port and has given an estimate to be in compliance. Mr. Allain also stated that they are in need of plumbing work, also. A motion was made by Mr. Jones to consider and take action on repairs to restrooms at the Port office. Mr. Tabb suggested to get two additional quotes before actually starting the project. Ms. Donna Lanceslin seconded the motion, with Joseph Tabb abstaining from the vote. The motion carried.

Regarding the Sugar Warehouse/LA DOTD – Project H.014893 (322) – A motion was made by Mr. Tabb to pay Miller Engineers – request for payment #7 – for Plans, Specs and Inspection for Final Design in the amount of \$183,505.68. Mr. Pontiff seconded the motion. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Paul suggested that next month's meeting be rescheduled because of the Fourth of July Holiday. The next meeting was rescheduled for July 11, 2023.

Mr. Duplantis reminded the Commission to complete their online training for Ethics and Preventing Sexual Harassment. He also stated that the Board will be well served by having Joe Foulcard, Jr. as the newest Commissioner.

Mr. Miller stated that the contract has been approved with ARL Construction and everything is ready in their office for Mr. Paul to sign. Once they get the Bonds and Insurance recorded, the Pre-Construction meeting will come after. The DOTD inspector will attend the Pre-Construction meeting, along with the contractors. He hopes they will be able to go to the site in the next 30 days to get started and break ground in July.

Mr. Jones stated that the session ends day after tomorrow for Senator Bret Allain, being his final session who has served twelve years. He stated that he worked closely with Mr. Bret Allain and they collectively they have brought in around \$950,000,000.00 for infrastructure improvements along with other projects. Mr. Jones made a motion that the Board send Mr. Allain a letter to thank him for his time and effort. It was seconded by Mr. Terry. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tabb made a motion to expand the agenda. The board voted unanimously to expand the agenda. Mr. Tabb made a motion to authorize the director, subject to attorney review, to approach David Naquin on an interim basis to help Mr. Allain with duties that need to be attended to considering his medical condition. Mr. Tabb also stated that this would be a temporary position. He would like the board to consider forming a committee to look at something long term for the future. Mr. Paul suggested that the committee be formed to look at different options, which could be volunteered or he would appoint people for the committee. Mr. Allain stated that a couple people are interested in applying for his position as Executive Director. Mr. Tabb stated he would like to get someone in soon and then later adjust to the circumstances. Mr. Jones seconded Mr. Tabb's motion to hire someone immediately on a temporary basis. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition. Mr. Authement opposed. The motion carried. Mr. Pontiff, Ms. Lanceslin, Mr. Tabb, and Mr. Jones volunteered to be on the committee.

Mr. Foulcard introduced himself and stated he would do anything for St. Mary Parish.

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. Tabb. Mr. Paul asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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