

SOUTH TANGIPAHOA PARISH PORT COMMISSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 – 12:00 NOON
AT
PONCHATOULA CITY HALL ANNEX BUILDING
110 WEST HICKORY ST
PONCHATOULA, LA 70454

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

President Daryl Ferrara delayed calling the Regular Meeting to order for a few minutes, due to the inclement weather, on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Helen Muller, Administrative Secretary, gave the invocation and Commissioner Wm. Joubert followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: James Daniels II, Daryl Ferrara, Wm. Joubert, James Nelson, Tina L. Roper Jimmy Schliegelmeyer, Jr., and Ryan Williams

Commissioners Absent. None

Others Present: Patrick Dufresne, Director; Helen Muller, Administrative Assistant; Kim Coates, Ben Taylor, Wayne Ricks, Carla Tate, Brigette Hyde, Lee Barends, Ken Benitz; An17 and Raley Pellittieri; Hammond Daily Star

President Ferrara welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending considering the stormy weather. He also welcomed special guest Dr. Robert Moreau and the state leadership team who would be assisting in giving a slide/zoom/voice presentation about the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Joubert and seconded by Commissioner Schliegelmeyer, Jr., that the South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission approve the April 13, 2021 Agenda, as presented. Motion passed. Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegelmeyer, Jr. and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: None

It was moved by Commissioner Daniels, II and seconded by Commissioner Schliegelmeyer, Jr. that the South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission adopt the minutes of its Regular meeting held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, as presented. Motion passed. Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegelmeyer, Jr. and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner/Treasurer Nelson presented the financials for the period ending March 31, 2021. He reported on the *Income Statement Prior Month Comparison* report. Reporting that the increase in revenue was relative to a payment/funding received from DOTD on State Project H.011927. Total Expenses were \$17,028.64 leaving a *net income* of \$101,965.94. The Balance Sheet showed *Total Assets* \$8,679.788.72 and *Total Liabilities and Capital* was \$8,679.788.72

It was moved by Commissioner Schliegmeyer, Jr., and seconded by Williams that the South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission approve the financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2021 as presented by Commissioner/Treasurer Nelson. Motion passed.

Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegmeyer, Jr. and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. DOTD- Port Priority State Project: SPN-578-53-0012/H.003600 (323) Bulkhead, Yard Hard Surfacing and Rail improvements, Phase III Update

Patrick Dufresne, Port Director, reported that he is expecting to receive the clear lien certificate any day now and then the state project can be formally closed.

2. LA DOTD Port Priority State H. 011927- Transload Improvements Update a) Resolution b) Resolution c) Resolution

The port director reported that the Rail Tie Maintenance project is now completed, and in addition asked that the Commission move forward in approving three resolutions relative to the project invoices for payment upon completion of State Project H.011927, which is required, prior to submitting to DOTD for their 90% match funding.

Commissioner/Secretary Daniels II, introduced the payment approval resolution a) b) and c)

- a) That the Commission authorizes Patrick Dufresne, Port Director, to approve and execute the Application for Partial Payment No. 2 (\$148,365.50) relative to SPN H. 011927 (321) Rail Tie Maintenance/Improvements Trans-loading Improvement project (s) at the Port Manchac inter-modal terminal from the project contractor (Pointer Smith Contracting Corporation) Professional Engineering Consultants PEC, upon invoice review/approval. The project work amount due this application is \$148,365.50. The South Tangipahoa Parish is responsible for 10% of the construction cost, per LA. DOTD Port Priority Application Grant regulations. Motion passed. Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegmeyer, Jr. and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: None
- b) That the Commission authorizes Patrick Dufresne, Port Director, to approve and execute the Application for Partial Payment No. 3 (\$33,353.55) relative to SPN H. 011927 (321) Rail Tie Maintenance/Improvements Trans-loading Improvement project (s) at the Port Manchac inter-modal terminal from the project contractor (Pointer Smith Contracting Corporation) Professional Engineering Consultants-

PEC, upon invoice review/approval. The project work amount due this application is \$33,353.55. The South Tangipahoa Parish is responsible for 10% of the construction cost, per LA. DOTD Port Priority Application Grant regulations. Motion passed. Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegelmeyer, Jr. and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: None

- c) That the Commission authorizes Patrick Dufresne, Port Director, to approve and execute the Application for Partial Payment No. 4 (\$18,000) relative to SPN H. 011927 (321) Rail Tie Maintenance/Improvements Trans-loading Improvement project (s) at the Port Manchac inter-modal terminal from the project contractor (Pointer Smith Contracting Corporation) Professional Engineering Consultants-PEC, upon invoice review/approval. The project work amount due this application is \$18,000. The South Tangipahoa Parish is responsible for 10% of the construction cost, per LA. DOTD Port Priority Application Grant regulations. Motion passed. Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegelmeyer, Jr. and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: None

It was moved by Commissioner Roper, seconded by Commissioner Nelson that the Commission agree/approve the three (3) resolutions *a) b) & c)* for payments relative to Rail Tie Maintenance/Improvements Trans-loading Improvements project (s). Motion passed. Call Vote: Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegelmeyer, Jr. and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: None

It was moved by Commissioner Joubert and seconded by Commissioner Roper that the Commission amend its agenda to move forward with *New Business*: Item 3. National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Presentation. Motion passed. Call vote; Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegelmeyer, Jr. and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: None

New Business: (Agenda Amendment)

Item 3: National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Presentation

President Ferrara, on behalf of the Commission, asked Commission Joubert to contact Dr. Robert Moreau, with SLU and manager/director of the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Center in Manchac, and to extend an invitation to Dr. Moreau to speak at the Commissioner's meeting and also to invite other interested parties/agencies seeking more information relative to the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) organization's project. Commissioner Joubert, commented saying his interest was that having an estuarine at Manchac would be a high economic investment for the *port* and *state* taking into consideration that the possibility of having a estuarine in Manchac would be a benefit and wanted to hear and share more details about it. He also commented " It could be the highest and best use for the port ever", adding that regardless of where it goes, " it's a win for Louisiana and the port".

Dr. Robert Moreau extended his thanks and appreciation to the STPPC for the invitation to speak and was excited to share his knowledge pertaining to the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) process for the site selection project. He also thanked and introduced the

Leadership Promotional Team, on the state level, who assisted with the informational process, they were Kristen Ransom; with NOAA, and Morgan Fletcher; with the Gov. Office of Coastal Affairs,

The Zoom/Slide/Voice presentation, given by Dr. Moreau, and the leadership team, on the National Estuarine Research Reserve organization was very informative. Many questions, by all, were answered following the presentation. The National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is managed by NOAR and is a network of **29 coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems**. Established through the Coastal Zone Management Act, the reserves represent a partnership program between National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and chooses sites from the coastal states. NOAA provides funding and national guidance, and each site is managed on a daily basis by a lead state agency or university with input from local partners.

The research team is in the process of selecting a site in a six or seven major zone area. Three zones that have a potential of being a site location in the State of Louisiana which are the Pontchartrain Basin, Barataria and Atchafalaya waterways.

In concluding the presentation, Dr. Moreau said it may be a waiting period of 4 to 6 years for the process on project completion. There will be lots of planning, town hall meeting, educational training, benefits and informational research meetings that are required during the process for an estuarine site selection. It would be a big win for Louisiana to have an estuarine research center, NERR, in its state. Dr. Moreau will keep the Commission informed on future meeting schedules during the process relative to the site selection process.

The Commissioners thanked Dr. Moreau, and the promotional leadership team, Kristin Ransom and Morgan Fletcher for taking the time from their busy schedule to enlightening the Commission and other entities on the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) site selection project. The Commission expressed interest and were excited and very supportive of NERR's future endeavors during the site location process, which would be the first Louisiana NERR.

Ms. Kim Coates, Tangipahoa Councilwomen, District 10, addressed the Commission expressed her interest and involvement with the port's property and future developments. She expressed her excitement saying that her concepts seemed to be working, as she had planned/envisioned, as part of the Dana Brown presentation for port property usage. She informed the Commission that she and other entities approves of the Pontchartrain Basin/ Lake Maurepas sites for an estuarine site location and would submit a letter of support.

Old Business: (cont'd)

3. Building # 2 and # 3 Lease Update

Commissioner Joubert informed the Commission that there were no updates at this time on previous discussions on correspondence/response relative to the lease agreements. President Ferrara mentioned that the lease agreement would be up for renewal at the end of October 2021.

4. Prospective Tenant (s) Update

The port director gave a brief summary relative to an onsite port visit meeting that was facilitated by a Greater New Orleans, Inc. (G.N.O) representative, TEDF, Representative Ginger Cangelosi, and Commissioner Tina Roper was also in attendance to discuss the potential prospect's interest in the port's facility. The company is based in Italy and are looking for a facility to manufacture/construct electrically powered recreational boats and also seeking acreage for laydown storage area with access to water. The prospect basically liked the port's site and will continue discussing his findings with other company personnel at its headquarters as the research continues.

5. Invoice Payment Approval

Commissioner Nelson presented the April invoices for payment approval. He reported that invoices 1) 2) & 3) relative to the Pointer Smith invoices for state projects had been previously approved by a required resolutions a) b) and c) and continue with invoices 4. & 5.

- 1. Pointer Smith Contracting Corporation, Rail-Tie Maintenance Project, (Application # 2)
Invoice # 9447 (a) State Project # HO119279321 Amount. \$148,365.50**
- 2. Pointer Smith Contracting Corporation, Rail-Tie Maintenance Project, (Application # 3)
Invoice # 9486 (b) State Project # HO119279321 Amount. \$33,353.55**
- 3. Pointer Smith Contracting Corporation, Rail-Tie Maintenance Project, (Application #4)
Invoice # 9498 (c) State Project # HO119279321 Amount. \$18,000.00**
- 4. AECOM - Site Improvements-Phase IV Project. 60638292) Inv. # 2000476245
Amount \$7,597.50 Service Rendered (Jan 23, 2021 – Mar 12, 2021)**
- 5. Cashe Coudrain & Bass - Services rendered – Through March 31, 2021 Inv.# 119837
Matter # 4623-1 Amount \$140.00**

Commissioner/Treasurer Nelson asked for an explanation on Item 4: AECOM expenses. The port director responded they were engineering fees for the upcoming Floodwall Project.

It was moved by Commissioner Daniels seconded by Commissioner Roper that the Commission approve the April, 2021 invoices, as presented. Motion passed. Vote: Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegmeyer, Jr. and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: None

6. None (Type 0 error)

7. Octavia Group Discussion Update

President Ferrara reported on the recent meeting held with Octavia Partners to further discuss the Port's concepts relative to future developments/activities. Attendee's at the meeting were Ferrara, Nelson; Commissioners, Dufresne; port director, Councilwomen; Coates; Dist.10 and Hyde; Dist. 9. The following matters/issues were discussed; Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, Octavia Partner's market interest, real estate matters, incentives, return on investments, rental income, tax credits, education center, boat launch, Dana Brown's land use research/presentation, environmental matters, boardwalk in swamp, land mitigation, land appraisal, economic impact, and other favorable options

were also discussed.

8. Port Manchac Priority Discussion Update

President Ferrara announced that the tour/field trip to Lafitte was put on hold until further notice.

New Business:

1. Audit Compliance Questionnaire for FY 2020 a) Resolution

Port Director Patrick Dufresne, informed the Commission that prior to the annual audit, a compliance questionnaire is required to be in accordance with the Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts, established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The completed questionnaire was presented for the Commissioner's review.

Commissioner/Secretary Daniels II, introduced a resolution for adopting the Compliance Questionnaire as required prior to the STPPC 2020 Audit.

It was moved by Commissioner Roper seconded by Commissioner Williams that the Commission adopt the completed Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire (For Audit Engagements), as presented, and submit the forms, a requirement as part of the financial audit for Louisiana governmental units and quasi-public entities, prior to the annual audit for year ending December 2020. Motion passed. Call vote: Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegmeyer, Jr., and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: 0

2. Official Journal of Record FY 2021-2022 a) Resolution

The port director announced that the current annual term for the present Official Journal of Record, Ponchatoula Times, will soon expire and that the Commission is required to advertise to seek proposals for FY 2021-2022.

Secretary Daniels II, introduce the RFP resolution to advertise for an Official Journal

It was moved by Commissioner Roper and seconded by Commissioner Williams that the Commission authorize its Executive Director, to empower and execute any and all documents pertaining to advertising its *Request For Proposals* for an official journal of record for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022. The requested information shall be as follows: 1) Circulation, 2) Length of time in Business, 3) Copy of Standard Rates, 4) A minimum of eight (8) point print for clarity of readership, and 5) Any other information you deem appropriate. Proposals must be received no later than Monday, June 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm. at 163 West Hickory Street, Ponchatoula, LA 70454. Motion passed. Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegmeyer, Jr., and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: 0

Remarks:

Patrick Dufresne, port director thanked Dr. Moreau for the presentation and everyone for their attendance, especially for coming out in the stormy weather, and also their input pertaining to Port Manchac.

President Ferrara thanked everyone for attending and Dr. Moreau and the Leadership team for their time and the Zoom/Voice/Slide presentation.

Having no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion passed. Yeas: 7 Daniels II, Ferrara, Joubert, Nelson, Roper, Schliegmeyer, Jr., and Williams Nays: 0 Absent: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

James Wes Daniels II, Secretary STPPC

Daryl Ferrara, President STPPC