

Avoyelles Parish Port Commission
170 Honeybee Lane
P.O. Box 126
Simmesport, Louisiana 71369

Regular Meeting

September 20, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chairman, Mr. Barry Laiche called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission at 5:35 p.m. on September 20, 2021, at the Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

By Mr. Samuel Ducote

III. PRAYER:

By Commissioner Scott Williams

IV. ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Sam Ducote conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Board Chairman, Mr. Barry Laiche

Commissioner, Mr. Scott Williams

Commissioner, Tony Pierite

Commissioner, Patrick Dehotels (arrived after roll call)

Mr. Stacy Auzenne (Port Counsel)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments.

VI. TREASURES REPORT:

Commissioner Lemoine was absent from meeting. Chairman Laiche moved to go forward with Delegates (Five Minute Rule).

VII. DELEGATES (FIVE MINUTE RULE):

No members of the public present.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Laiche commented on there not being a meeting in August due to availability of commissioners to make quorum.

IX. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Commissioner Williams asked if Brad Augustine with Brudd Construction inquired about renting a trailer from the Port Commission for the remainder of 2021. It was decided that since Brudd was still under contract with the Port Commission and at this time not utilizing a trailer that Brudd would be allowed to use a trailer for the remainder of the year.

X. PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Port Director, Sammy Ducote expected to have a quote to paint exposed and rusted areas on the barge and life safety jacket box to share with the Port Commission, but he did not receive the quote before the meeting.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER MATTERS:

1. CANADAVILLE GROUP PROPOSAL

Mr. Steve Mansour offered a proposal to the Port Commission to extend the development agreement which expired in August of 2021 between the Canadaville Group and the Port Commission. After proposal by Mr. Mansour and discussion by the commissioners it was determined that because the agreement expired in August of 2021 a motion would have to be made, seconded, and positively voted on for the agreement to continue. A motion was not made to extend said development agreement.

2. CAPITAL OUTLAY FORMS

Mr. Jerry Klier was present at the meeting to update the board on progress capital outlay project. The project did not receive priority one funding for this current fiscal year and was not on the Bond Commission's agenda in September. A new application will have to be submitted by GEC.

3. **HELENA CONTRACT DISCUSSION**

The Commission is in the first of two five-year extensions and discussion was had in reference to renegotiating the agreement in terms of the new million-gallon tank project that is in part of the capital outlay bill. It was determined the Commission would hold tight and begin meetings with Helena management and legal teams at future date.

4. **MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT – TRACTOR AND MOWERS**

Port Director Ducote provided a list of equipment that needs repairing including a zero-turn mower that is no longer operable. Mr. Auzenne determined that fifteen thousand dollars is the most the Commission could spend without a public bid having to be made. The commissioners decided to repair the mowers as that is part of normal equipment maintenance and to get quotes for a new zero turn mower from John Deere and Kubota. Commissioner Deshotels commented on the state of the ballfields on Port property, and it was agreed by the commissioners that Mr. Ducote will speak with Town of Simmesport about maintenance since they are in an inter-governmental agreement with the Port for use of the ballfields.

5. **PRESENTATION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT, ED SIEJA OF BALLARD ENGINEERS, TOM CURRIN BY PHONE OR POWER POINT**

Mr. Auzenne stated that neither party would be available to attend this meeting but discussed Mr. Currin's plan to put a renewable energy facility at the port, based on the port's proximity to river, rail and road transportation and because of the high amount of agriculture in this area of Louisiana. Discussions by the commissioners in reference to meeting with Mr. Currin in October to discuss future intentions.

6. ISSUE OF PORT NOT BEING TAX EXEMPT

Commissioner Lemoine inquired as to if there were any ability by the Commission to extend tax exempt status to businesses wanting to locate on port property. It was determined that the commission would inquire with the Louisiana Economic and Development Authority as to if there is anything that can be done to address this matter.

XII. ADJOURN MEETING:

Commissioner Deshotels made motion to adjourn meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. The next regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission will be held on October 18, 2021, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Headquarters. Meeting was adjourned.