COLUMBIA PORT COMMISSION January 21 ,2021

MINUTES MEETING:

COMMISSIONERS: DARRON MCGUFFEE, President Charles Hearns, Secretary/Treasurer

 Bruce Frazier, John Cooksey, and Monty Adams Jr.

 DIRECTOR: GREG RICHARDSON

Meeting was called to order by Darron McGuffee, Port President at the Police Jury Meeting Room in the Caldwell Parish Courthousehome .

READING OF THE MINUTES AND BANK STATEMENTS, motion was made by Bruce Frazier and seconded by John Cooksey to adopt the minutes and bank statements motion passed.

ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING MEETING

The Port Commission discussed the need to appoint a financial committee to assist and review the Port Director and Accountants monthly work. The Motion was made by Bruce Frazier and Seconded by John Cooksey to appoint Monty Adams, Jr and Charles Hearns to the Financial Committee. Darron McGuffee will serve as alternate to the committee, since we are limited to committees only having two members. Motion Passed.

The next itemed discussed was the Port need to borrow $4 million dollars to start the scope of work for the LADOTD Port Priority Grant specifically the improvements to Riverton Campground Road which is scheduled for construction this summer. Greg has been working with Brennan Black our Bond Attorney with Foley & Judell to prepare application to the Bond Commission. Foley & Judell were selected as Bond Attorney because of their long history with working with the Caldwell Parish Police Jury. Greg requested the approval to hire Foley & Judell as bond attorney. Motion was made by Bruce Frazier and Seconded by Charles Hearns to hire Foley & Judell as our bond attorney. Motion passed.

John Cooksey made a motion to pass a resolution authorizing the Port to seek funding from the Bond Commission, motion was seconded by Charles Hearns, motion passed and resolution was signed.

Greg Richardson discussed the individual items that the initial request from the bond commission would be approximately 4 million dollars to assist with land purchase, perform engineering services associated with the improvements to riverton campground road as well as other operational cost needed to execute the LADOTD Port Priority Grant. One of the items identified by Foley & Judell was to have the proposed land appraised. Greg inquired with other Ports about who they had used to perform appraisals and Greg Wilbanks Appraisal was recommended. Motion was made by Bruce Frazier and seconded by John Cooksey to hire Greg Wilbanks to perform the appraisal with a limit of $5,000 for services, motion passed.

Greg Richardson provided commission with proposal by Laura Hart to provide accounting services. The Board reviewed her proposal as well as discussed the fact that she is also providing similar services to the Police Jury would be a benefit. Motion was made by Monty Adams and seconded by John Cooksey to hire Ms. Hart to provided accounting services, motion passed.

The promotion of Greg Richardson from part time Port Director on a contract basis to an employee of the Port as a full time Port Director has been discussed over the past two months. Gary Lagrange provided a report outlining the need for a full time port director as well as recommendation of salary based on summaries of regional Port Directors. Harper Wilkins provide a legal option as well as review the Employment Contract for the Port Director Position. The employment contract for Greg Richardson to be hired as full time port director for the port of Columbia was present to the Commission for action. Charles Hearns made the motion to hire Greg Richarson as full time Port Director as a Port employee, motion was seconded by Bruce Frazier motion passed unanomiously. The Port Directors employment will commence on February 1, 2022.

Greg Richardson discussed Port Tenant.

 LGF held several community meetings to inform the public on the status of the Project with the commissioners attended so everything seems to be going along smoothly.

 David Guerrero is preparing for farming this season with the removal of approximately 10-15 acres of property which he can’t farm due to Terral expansion and proposed road construction of riverton campground road.

 Rodger Mcclanahan paid his outstanding balance of $4000 for 2021 rent. He was told with everything going on at the Port he must comply with his lease and pay promptly or face eviction. The Port Commission requested that Greg Richardson be more vigilance with rent due.

 Terral Riverservices, has requested additional area to expand their rockyard operation to 10 acres. Greg has been back and forth between LGF, BHA, and Terral on an area which would be suitable for both parties. A Maps of the proposed rockyard expansion have been provided to Terral and we hope to have a new lease by our next meeting.

Greg Richardson presented the board with our 2022 Budget for the Columbia Port Commission. The Port Commission discussed items on the Budget after which Charles Hearns made a motion to adopt the 2022 Budget which was seconded by Bruce Frazier motion passed.

Greg Richardson listed the outstanding invoices as well as membership renew in PAL which need to be approved by the Board to be paid. Motion was made by Bruce Frazier and seconded by John Cooksey to pay all outstanding invoices.

**Motion was made by Charles hearns to adjourn the meeting second by Bruce Frazier motion LG**