Greater Ouachita Port Commission Minutes

June 7, 2017

Monroe Chamber of Commerce

Commissioners Present: Ricky Guillot, Terri Odom, James Lee, Roland Charles and Sue Nicholson

Commissioners Absent: Bobby Manning, and James Jones

Guests: Josh Hays, Lazenby & Associates, Paul Trichel with Ouachita Terminals; Hannah Livingston with Senator Kennedy’s office; Angie Robert with Senator Cassidy’s office.

Call to Order

Chairman Guillot called the meeting to order and offered an invocation. The notes from the May 10 meeting were approved as read. Commissioner Odom moved that the minutes be approved as read. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nicholson. Motion passed.

Financial Report

Treasurer Odom presented the financial report as of May 10 as follows:

The GOA has a balance of $184,642.14

The PPA has a balance of $139.45

The EDA has a balance of $92

The FPC Account remains open with a -0- balance

Commissioner Charles moved that the report be approved as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Motion passed.

Commissioner Odom asked if we should close the PPA account that has a balance of balance of $139.45 and the EDA account that has a balance of $92. It was decided to keep the two accounts open for now.

Treasurer Odom reported that the audit is almost complete and should be presented at the next July meeting.

Commissioner Guillot asked for a motion to nominate Sue Nicholson for Secretary. Commissioner Lee made the motion. Commissioner Odom seconded. Motion passed.

Construction Report

No report at this time

Operations Report

Paul Trichel said that he, Terry Baugh and Richard Richardson will not be in town on September 13 to give a report on port operations and their vision for the facility. Paul will check with Terry and Richard to see if September 6th or 20th work better for them or if they would prefer presenting in October.

Paul also mentioned that the proposed gas tax failed, which would have provided much more funding for port projects as well as road projects. President Trump’s proposed budget cuts out TIGER grants and requires a higher state match.

With that being said, Commissioner Guillot asked that the presentation assume that we will not receive federal and state funds for the port. So what is the operation plan for the port going forward with the infrastructure they already have in place. What else can we do to enhance the port through marketing or economic development?

Other Business

There was no other business to report.

Adjournment

The GOPC will meet again at noon on July 12 at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. There being no further business, the GOPC adjourned.