The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at the Madison Parish Port Commission Office. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Donald Frazier and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Donald Frazier, Charles Vining, Robert Charles Brown and Isaiah Ross

Commissioners absent: Jim Tucker, Harold Allen and Latasha Griffin

Other members present: Patrick Terry Murphy, Executive Director &

 Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: Kevin Allen(TRS), Dino Trevino(DSR),Dan Militaru & Troy Lavoie(RailCar Co) and Margaret Allen(citizen)

Secretary Epps provided information to the board on the 2023 fiscal year budgets. Epps explained the increase on some line items that are pertinent to projects that are underway. Commissioner Ross questioned the increase on several line items. Epps explained the need for the increase is due to several projects scheduled for the fiscal year 2023.

Public Hearing adjourned! On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and Commissioner Ross on closing the discussions of the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Session

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and Commissioner Ross on approving the previous meeting minutes on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. The minutes were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

 Secretary Epps provided the information on the accrual of accounts on the new CD(s). Vice-Chairman Vining stated that it’s good to see the accounts finally earning monies.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Brown, the financial reports were approved with no necessary changes. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to adopt the 2023 Fiscal year budgets. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

Yea: 4

Nay: 0

Absent: 3

Abstain: 0

\*\*\***Dan Militaru(RailCar Co owner) explained the operations of the entity. In addition, to informing the board of the need to upgrade the electrical in the building( he explained how important the electrical is to the operation). Militaru provided an increase in salary to his employees. He stated that he would like to employ an additional 20+ persons. At this time staffing is an issue with the operation as well. He has the work but not enough employees to get the job done.**\*\*\*

Director Murphy informed the board of conditions on transporting on the Mississippi River. Neal Martin(TRS) and Corp of Engineers representatives met with Murphy regarding the ongoing issues with the sandbars. As of this week transporting on the river has resumed.

Director Murphy stated that Port Road Grant would go out for bids in March.

Director Murphy discussed the proposal provided by McHann Railroad Services. MRS will clear the lower area by cutting and mulching the willow trees to provide an area for containers on barge operations.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to accept the proposal on services by McHann Railroad Services to clear the area of the Port. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public comments: Commissioner Ross questioned RailCar Co regarding any assistance the Port can offer the operation. Lavoie stated that a portable forklift ramp would help during unloading of product. Vice-Chairman Vining stated that he would keep his eye out for a ramp.**

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to move into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to end the executive session and return to regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Vining offered a motion to allow Secretary Epps to use one of the bumps at Guaranty Bank should the interest rate increase to 5%. Secretary Epps has a standing resolution for the bank procedures allowing the bump.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the Secretary-Treasurer to provide a resolution for the rate increase(bump) at Guaranty Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

Yea: 4

Nay: 0

Absent: 3

Abstain: 0

Chairman Frazier offered a motion to table the employee increments until the next scheduled meeting. The board agreed to table the employee increments.

 There being no further business brought before the board, Chairman Frazier declared the meeting adjourned.

Kimmeka Epps Donald Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer Chairman