The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at the Madison Parish Port Office. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frazier and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Donald Frazier, Charles Vining, Latasha Griffin, Robert Charles Brown and Jim Tucker

Commissioners absent: Harold Allen and Isaiah Ross

Other members present: Mr. Terry Murphy, Director and Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: Craig Huff (DSR) and Matt Prince (Continental Rail)

The Chairman opened the meeting with a Public hearing. The discussion of the 2018 fiscal year budget was discussed and reviewed by the board members. Commissioner Vining questioned the expenses for 2018. Secretary Epps informed the board that while no projects are underway at this time, placing an amount in the budget for potential problems and/or projects the budgeted amount is already in place for those issues. Commissioner Vining questioned the potential problems and/or projects that the Executive Director and/or the Secretary Treasurer maybe aware of. Secretary Epps explained that a grant was award to the Port with a 20% match required. Epps stated that those numbers are in the budgeted amount. Executive Director Murphy reminded the board of the roof repairs needed on the Northrup Grumman building, adding that those are some of the issues we may face in the up and coming fiscal year. Commissioner Tucker asked if there are any specific projects to where the monies will be allocated. Murphy suggested that he does want to complete the work on the water tower. He stated that a proposal was obtained last year for the repairs. Commissioner Vining questioned the comparison in the past years budget to the current budget on the table. Murphy stated the income has increased. Secretary Epps suggested viewing the current budget and view the next fiscal year to understand how the comparisons differ of the two budgets. Commissioner Tucker questioned the travel expenses and the telephone expense. Secretary Epps explained what items are included to the expense of the travel and telephone. Commissioner Vining asked if we bundled the account with AT&T. No bundles of accounts at this time. Secretary Epps added in closing that no activity took place in Construction budget after the work on the dock. However, monies are added to Maintenance and repairs just in case.

No public comments from the visitors.

Public hearing ruled adjourned by Chairman Frazier.

Chairman Frazier called the regular meeting to order.

Secretary Epps asked for an amendment of the Agenda due to a pressing issue that requires the boards immediate attention.

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Tucker, on amending the agenda to add a resolution to the Agenda giving the Executive Director the authority to sign off on the Delta Regional Authority Grant. The agenda was amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call was taken.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain: 0

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioners Tucker and Brown, on approving the previous meeting minutes on Tuesday, November 28, 2017. The minutes were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Murphy informed the board that a grant was submitted in 2017 that would affect the budget. If the grant is approved we will have to amend the budget to add the amount that may be awarded.

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Tucker, to approve & adopt the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget, the budget was approved with no necessary changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call was taken.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain: 0

Murphy recommended moving forward on the purchase of the property. He stated he wasn’t pleased with the way things were handled on the prior approval of the purchase between the land owner and the attorney. Commissioners Vining and Griffin questioned Murphy why the purchase amount requested is more than what the board previously approved. Murphy stated that the land owner changed the amount requested and the attorney suggested to avoid additional fees pay the requested amount. Commissioner Vining questioned the confirmation of the size of land acquired and whether the deal will be completed by the end of the year. Murphy stated that the amount of land was confirmed and yes the deal should be completed by the end of the year.

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Brown, the board agreed to pay the amount requested of the land owner. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll call was taken.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain: 0

Murphy informed the board on the status of phase 2 river bank clearing. He stated that the area was marked for clearing. The engineers from HDR will meet with the CORP for additional information about the wetlands to confirm the area in question. Commissioner Vining suggested Murphy look into land swapping. Murphy stated he would discuss that with the engineers to obtain additional information on the land swapping.

Murphy updated the board on the grant implementation previously during the budget discussions.

The resolution requested from Delta Regional Authority (DRA) was read with the understanding that the Executive Director would be designated and appointed to perform on behalf of the Madison Parish Port Commission and has the authority to make acts and assume any and all duties dealing with the award from DRA.

On motion given by Commissioner Tucker and seconded by Commissioner Vining, to approve the Executive Director operate on behalf of the Madison Parish Port for the Delta Regional Authority Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

 **Public comments**: Matt Prince (Continental Rail) gave an update on the work on the railroad. Prince stated that 5 to 6 thousand ties will be replaced in Monroe on the rail and the project will continue in Tallulah with that same number of ties on the rail. Some bridge work will be done as well. Commissioner Vining questioned the determination of the required work on the ties. Prince stated that an employee will mark the location that requires the work. Commissioner Tucker questioned the amount of ties in a mile. Prince stated there are 3500 ties in a mile. The next project will be rock on the track. Prince closed by saying they will be busy the next 5-6 months on projects.

No discussions were required for an executive session.

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

Kimmeka Epps Donald Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer Chairman