WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2013

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Calvin Deshotel, President of the Port Commission. Mr. Greg Paul led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present: Absent:

Phil Bell

Tad Blevins

Calvin Deshotel

Joseph Tabb

Greg Paul

Willie Peters

Ralph Longman

Wayne Stevens

Will Terry

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. Paul Naquin, St. Mary Parish President, Mr. Jacob Giardina, Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director and Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Peters to dispense with the reading of the January 8, 2013 meeting minutes and to accept the same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tabb and carried unanimously.

Mr. Paul Naquin, President of the St. Mary Parish gave an update on the progress of the potential development of a deep water port near Bayou Sale with a group of Chinese businessmen. He reported that he recently met with representatives of the Port of New Orleans and plans to meet with the Port of South Louisiana to discuss plans for the development of the deep water port.

A motion was made by Mr. Longman to pay the invoice as presented in the amount of $5,675.00 to Volkert, Inc. for updating of the Port of West St. Mary’s Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported on recent problems at the Port’s water plant. Upon recent inspection by a technician, it was determined that the bearing on the electric motor is bad. The motor should be back on line later this week. There are two service pumps at the water plant and they alternate from one to the other. Presently, there is one service well and Mr. Allain is working on funding to add another service well to Port’s water system.

Mr. Allain reported that, as per the instructions of the Port’s Board, he met recently with representatives of Superior Fabricators and offered to purchase the entire facility for the sum of $3 million. Mr. Allain said discussion continued for approximately one hour. Mr. Allain informed Superior that the tenant the Port has in mind to lease the facility does not need the equipment in the facility. Superior representatives requested that Mr. Allain inform the Board that they are requesting additional funds for the equipment in the facility. Mr. Allain said the welding equipment is valued at approximately $600,000 and the machinery equipment at approximately $350,000 to $400,000. Some of the equipment is anchored to the floor in the buildings and the value would have to be discounted because of the cost to remove it from the facility. Mr. Allain said that he believes that the offer of $3 million is a reasonable offer for the facility and the equipment. Discussion followed. Mr. Allain informed the Commission that it was his understanding that there are other parties interested in the property. Mr. Allain also stated that he has potential tenant in mind for the facility, but the tenant would have no use for the equipment. When asked how quickly he could negotiate a lease with the tenant, he stated that he felt he could do that fairly quickly as he presently has a Letter of Intent from the potential tenant. A motion was made Mr. Paul that $3 million would be the Port’s final offer for the property and equipment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and carried unanimously.

Mr. Duplantis, Attorney for the Port Commission reported that a law firm out of Lake Charles representing numerous parishes to try to recover additional money and damages from BP – British Petroleum, because of loss of sales tax revenues contacted him about representing the Port of West St. Mary. The Port does not collect any sales tax revenues, but because of the property owned by the Port, the Port may be entitled to money for damages. Mr. Duplantis commended Mr. Allain and his staff for collecting all of the data required by the law firm in an expeditious manner. The law firm will take all of the risks and there will be no cost to the Port of West St. Mary. If a settlement is reached, the law firm will be entitled to a percentage of the final award. A Resolution was passed and a motion was made by Mr. Bell to hire the law firm of Plauche, Smith, Nieset, LLC of Lake Charles to represent the Port of West St. Mary seeking damages from BP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and carried unanimously

Mr. Duplantis issued the Oath of Office from the State of Louisiana to the Commissioners and staff of the Port of West St. Mary.

Mr. Allain reminded the Commission that the Annual Ports Association of Louisiana Conference will be held in Houma, Louisiana on March 6, 7 and 8th, 2013.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Mr. Longman to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

 Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Willie Peters, Secretary