

Avoyelles Parish Port Commission

170 Honeybee Lane

P.O. Box 126

Simmesport, Louisiana 71369

Regular Meeting

February 21, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Barry Laiche called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission at 5:30 p.m. on February 21, 2022, at Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

By Commissioner Scott Williams

III. PRAYER:

By Mr. Stacy Auzenne

IV. ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Sam Ducote conducted the roll call. The following individuals were present allowing for a quorum of three of five commissioners present:

Board Chairman Mr. Barry Laiche

Commissioner Mr. Scott Williams

Commissioner Penn Lemoine (via telephone)

Mr. Stacy Auzenne (Port Counsel)

Ms. Molly Bourgoyne (DOTD Multimodal Transportation Director)

Mr. Matthew Malphurs (DOTD - OMC)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments.

VI. TREASURES REPORT:

Commissioner Lemoine passed due to attending via telephone.

VII. ADOPTION OF PRIOR MINUTES:

Minutes from the December 2021 meeting were reviewed by the commissioners, and Commissioner Williams moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Lemoine seconded the motion. The motion to accept the December 2021 minutes passed unanimously.

VIII. DELEGATES FIVE MINUTE RULE:

No members of the public were present.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Laiche reported that the online auction of remaining residential trailer units was underway with Henderson Auction.

X. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Commissioner Williams made the motion to purchase a bumper-to-bumper extended warranty for the Kubota diesel mower recently purchased for \$1,325.00. Commissioner Lemoine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A) Status of home auction and tenant rent.

Director Ducote restated that the online auction was currently underway.

B) Deposit of Port relief check.

Director Ducote deposited \$215,389.07 which are Covid relief funds received from the State of Louisiana.

C) Acknowledge that the 2021 amended budget was approved.

After discussion of 2021 budgeted income in relation to actual income Commissioner Williams motioned on request of Counsel Auzenne to amend the budget to reflect the sale of housing units to ensure the Commission is compliance

with State law. Commissioner Lemoine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D) Take action to increase port security.

Director Ducote explained that a Port utility trailer had been stolen from port property. Director Ducote eventually recovered the trailer. The Director explained to the Commission importance of increasing security in and around the port property which would include the use of gates, lights, and security surveillance systems. The Commission agreed to dive deeper into this subject once the residential homes were sold and removed from port property.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

A) Earmark \$250,000.00 for liquid fertilizer tank project.

Commissioner Williams motioned to allow Chairman Laiche to move \$250,000.00 into a savings account and earmark the same for the liquid fertilizer expansion project. Commissioner Lemoine seconded the motion. The passed unanimously.

B) DOTD representatives Molly Bourgoyne and Matthew Malphurs give presentation.

Representatives from the DOTD offered a presentation on services they could offer the Port Commission such as vetting potential new tenants.

C) Discussion and approval of the purchase of pipe gates and signage on port entrance after auction and new steel metal building.

Chairman Laiche tabled this discussion and moved it to the April agenda.

D) Contact Cleco to remove all electrical equipment, switch boxes, transformers, etcetera.

Chairman Laiche instructed Port Director Ducote to contact Cleco to remove all equipment, boxes, transformers, and all other items that are deemed Cleco's responsibility.

E) Discuss possible action to remove all utility service, plumbing lines and all else necessary to return port land to its original state.

Chairman Laiche tabled this discussion to the April agenda

F) Resolution to move the January monthly meeting date from Monday to Tuesday of the same week in observance of Martin Luther King Day holiday.

Chairman Laiche entertained a motion from the commissioners to resolve that on this 21st day of February 2022 under the authority of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission and the State of Louisiana that the established January regular monthly meeting date of Monday be moved to the Tuesday of the same week hence forward in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Commissioner Williams so moved. Commissioner Lemoine seconded the resolution. The resolution passed unanimously.

G) Vote on purchasing o extended warranty on newly purchased mower in the amount of \$1,325.00.

Warranty purchase by the Commission. was resolved under the vice-chairman's report.

H) Draft bid proposal for sixty horsepower tractor.

The Commission requested Counsel Auzenne to prepare a public bid request for the purchase of a sixty horsepower PTO seventy horsepower four-wheel drive tractor and eight-foot bush hog.

XII ADJOURN MEETING:

Commissioner Williams made motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Lemoine seconded the motion. The next regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission will take place on March 21, 2022, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Headquarters. The meeting adjourned.