

Avoyelles Parish Port Commission

170 Honeybee Lane

P.O. Box 126

Simmesport, Louisiana 71369

Regular Meeting

March 21, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman. Barry Laiche called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission at 5:31 p.m. on March 21, 2022, at Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

By Mr. Brad Augustine

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 Tony Pierite

Mr. Stacy Auzenne (Port Counsel)

Mr. Brad Augustine (Brudd Construction)

Ms. Diedre Mack (Public)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments.

VI. TREASURES REPORT:

Commissioner Lemoine out due to illness.

VII. ADOPTION OF PRIOR MINUTES:

Minutes were not available at time of the meeting.

VIII. DELEGATES FIVE MINUTE RULE:

Ms. Deidre Mack asked permission of the Port Commission to hold three events on the grounds of the port. The three events will be an Easter egg hunt to be held on the Friday and Saturday before Easter Sunday, a Mother's Day program to be held the Saturday before Mother's Day and a hair/fashion show to be held sometime in September. Permission was granted to use the grounds by the boat launch.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Laiche reported on the damaged lights at the boat launch and instructed Director Ducote to gather bids to repair the existing lighting around the launch. He also discussed the possibility of speaking with the Red River Waterway Commission about helping to maintain that area of the port due to the Port's lack of maintenance personnel.

X. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Commissioner Williams did not have anything to report.

XI. PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A) Presentation of new website for the port by Mr. Will Bailey with Lafayette Websites.

Mr. Bailey was unable to attend due to illness.

B) Tractor bid.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the public bid for a new tractor present by Counsel Auzenne. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierite and passed unanimously.

C) Metal Warehouse bid.

Commissioner Pierite made a motion to accept the public bid and advertisement for the construction of a sixty-by-sixty metal building on slab equipped with sliding bay doors, interior and exterior lighting, insulation, security camera inside and along the perimeter of the building, wired for electricity and plumbing. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

- A) Discussion and possible approval of pipe gate and signage on port entrance after auction as well as securing back and sides of port property with gates and signage.**

Chairman Laiche entertained a discussion of the above. However, no immediate action was taken by the Commission.

- B) Discuss action to remove all utility service, plumbing, electrical and else necessary to return port lane to its original state.**

Discussion took place of accepting bids to clean up the residential lots after they are moved and to tear down the old barn behind the port headquarters.

- C) Possible attempt to recuperate past due rent from delinquent tenants.**

After open discussions among the commissioners, they decided to not pursue the past due rents owed to the commission because the amounts owed may cost more than what is owed to collect.

- D) Discuss Port security system proposed contract.**

Director Ducote received a bid of \$4,975.00 to install a security system around the port consisting of one sixteen channel hard drive, five turret cameras, three turret cameras for the barn, twenty-two-inch monitor, wireless bridge, port switch, weather box, battery backup, and HDMI cables. The commissioners decided that the three turret cameras for the barn were duplicative and not needed and should be placed around the port headquarters. Chairman Laiche entertained a motion from the commissioners to authorize him as port president to approve and commit the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission to a wireless security surveillance system from Chase Communication for a maximum price of five thousand dollars. Commissioner Williams so moved, and Commissioner Pierite seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- E) Port Commission paying monthly internet bill.**

Chairman Laiche requested a motion for a resolution from the commissioners stating that the Port Authority has added technical communications abilities including internet and broadband service at the port office and resolve that this expense is spent from the grant money recently received by the Port Commission. Commissioner Pierite made the motion as stated and Commissioner Williams followed with a second. The resolution passed unanimously.

F) Declaring old tractor surplus or decide to keep it.

Following discussion of the old tractor Commissioner Pierite made a resolution to amend the bid specs for the new sixty horsepower diesel tractor to include a trade-in and the Port Commission to receive the credit for whatever the value of the old tractor will be. Commissioner Williams seconded the resolution to amend the bid specs and was passed unanimously.

G) Discuss and take appropriate action on Brudd Construction lease renewal.

Port Counsel, Mr. Stacy Auzenne reviewed the original lease and updated the new lease to include a rental increase of two thousand five hundred dollars per the original lease language and to increase the cost of aggregate unloaded from thirteen cents to fourteen cents per ton and to add the statute that created the new commission. Commissioner Pierite motioned to authorize Chairman Laiche to enter the lease renewal with Brudd Construction as will be presented by Counsel Auzenne with changes effective March 21, 2022. Commissioner Williams seconded the resolution and the resolution passed unanimously.

H) Discuss and take appropriate action on the Helena lease.

Chairman Laiche requested a motion to allow Commissioner Williams with the consult of Chairman Laiche as Port Commission Chairman to finalize a deal with Helena Chemical which will then go forward for inspection by Port Commission legal counsel, Mr. Stacey Auzenne. Commissioner Pierite so moved on motion to authorize, and Commissioner Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

I) Discuss and take possible action on memorandum of understanding between the Commission and Ed Sieja Fabrication Shop.

The Commissioners discussed what they were looking for in this memorandum of understanding and directed Port Counsel, Auzenne to meet with Mr. Sieja's group and develop a M.O.U. that will meet the guidelines in the next month or two.

XII ADJOURN MEETING:

Commissioner Williams made motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Pierite seconded the motion. The next regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission will take place on April 18, 2022, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Headquarters. The meeting adjourned.