

Agreement

**Avoyelles Parish Port Commission
170 Honeybee Lane
P.O. Box 126
Simmesport, Louisiana 71369**

Regular Meeting

December 20, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Barry Laiche called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission at 5:32 p.m. on December 20, 2021, at Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

By Commissioner Tony Pierite

III. PRAYER:

By Commissioner Scott Williams

IV. ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Sam Ducote conducted the roll call. The following individuals were present:

Board Chairman, Mr. Barry Laiche

Commissioner, Mr. Scott Williams

Commissioner, Tony Pierite

Mr. Stacy Auzenne (Port Counsel)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments.

VI. TREASURES REPORT:

Commissioner Lemoine was absent from meeting.

VII. ADOPTION OF PRIOR MINUTES:

Minutes from the October 18, 2021, regular meeting, and October 20, 2021, special meeting, were given to all attendees. Chairman Laiche noted that the November 2021 meeting was not held due to lack of quorum. Commissioner Williams moved to adopt both sets of minutes as presented. Commissioner Pierite seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DELEGATES FIVE MINUTE RULE:

No members of the public were present.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Laiche expressed the need for the Port Commission to have a website presence on the internet. Per prior years discussions it determined that a budget of \$7,500.00 be allocated and approved. Commissioner Tony Pierite made the motion to create a budget of \$7,500 for the development and implementation of a website. Commissioner Scott Williams seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

X. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Commissioner Williams did not have anything to report.

XI. PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A) Commissioner term lengths start and end

Director Ducote brought before the board the need for term limits. After lengthy discussions it was determined and approved by unanimous margin that the term limits would be as follows:

Commissioner Tony Pierite's term in office will be May 18, 2020, through May 18, 2022.

Commissioner Penn Lemoine's term in office will be May 18, 2020, through May 18, 2022.

Commissioner Scott Williams' term in office will be May 18, 2020, through May 18, 2023.

Commissioner Patrick Dehotels' term in office will be May 18, 2020, through May 18, 2024.

Commissioner Barry Laiche's term in office will be May 18, 2020, through May 18, 2024.

B) Discuss the possible signing of Tom Currin proposed memorandum of understanding and non-disclosure agreement.

Chairman Laiche expressed his concerns over wording in the MOU and indicated he was uncomfortable signing a non-disclosure agreement. All commissioners had similar feelings. Mr. Auzenne was instructed to stay in contact with the Currin group and work towards re-writing the MOU to not include a non-disclosure at this time.

C) Update on Helena Tank lighting and barge painting project.

Director Ducote advised the Board that all work had been completed on the barge and that the barge is in much better working condition.

D) PAL annual dues for 2022.

PAL dues for 2022 will be \$2,200. Chairman Laiche discussed the need for the Avoyelles Port Commission to attend more of the monthly meetings. Commissioner Scott Williams made a motion to pay the annual dues. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierite and passed unanimously.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

A) Henderson Auctions representative to present answers to questions.

The representative for Henderson Auctions cancelled his plan to attend due to inclement weather. Chairman Laiche signed a notice for vacate offered by Mr. Auzenne to begin eviction proceedings in January of remaining tenants. Mr. Auzenne offered the opinion that Mr. Laiche has the authority to set the minimum bidding for all units at the average sales price from last auction.

B) DOTD representatives to present answers to questions.

Representatives from the DOTD did not attend the meeting due to inclement weather.

C) Authorize purchase of computer, printer, presentation projector, screen and any necessary equipment needed for meetings.

Chairman Laiche entertained a motion from the commissioners to allow for the purchase of a laptop computer, printer/copier/scanner, a smart TV, and all other necessary equipment to conduct meetings at the Port in the amount of \$3,500.00. Commissioner Pierite made the motion, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously.

D) Discussion of best quote for the possible purchase of a lawnmower before year end.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to purchase a Kubota BD 1105 hydrostatic diesel lawnmower from Progressive Tractor and Implement Company in Opelousas, Louisiana in the amount of \$14,841.18 and authorize issuance of funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierite and passed unanimously.

E) Status of Helena tank capital outlay project.

Chairman Laiche updated the board on the status of the capital outlay project. As of today, the Helena tank is approved as a priority two capital outlay project. However, if there are no excess funds available after funding all priority one capital outlay projects, the Helena tank project will not go before the bond commission. With the incoming grant of approximately \$215,000.00 Chairman Laiche entertained a motion to set aside in a savings account \$250,000.00 dollars as earmarked money for the project. Commissioner Williams made such motion and was seconded by Commissioner Pierite. The motion passed unanimously. It is the hope of the Commissioner that they will be able to have a meeting in the coming future to discuss that the Port of Avoyelles has the money set aside and is ready to get the project moving forward.

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 January 17, 2022, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Headquarters. The meeting adjourned.