The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at the Madison Parish Port Commission Office. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Donald Frazier and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Donald Frazier, Latasha Griffin, David Williams and

Curt Collins

Commissioners absent: Robert Charles Brown and Isaiah Ross

Other members present Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: Neil Martin, Terral River Service

On motion given by Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Williams approving the previous meeting minutes for Tuesday September 10, 2024, the minutes were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Epps reported no changes to the financial report. She informed the board of the invoice that went out to the Police Jury regarding the shared cost of repairs to Port Road. She also added that the 1st quarterly payment was made on the scale at Terral River Service. Commissioners Collins questioned the budgeted item for Maintenance & Repairs. Epps stated that the budgeted items are overbudgeted due to incomplete projects and she sets the budget for overages just in case. She informed the board that the budget for the next fiscal year is upon us and the board can set the budget accordingly.

On motion given by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Williams, the financial reports were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Epps provided information on the status of the SEADD Project. She explained that she walked the area with engineers to decide on the placement of track for the rail project. Commissioner Collins questioned the passenger cars on the track at Railcar Co. Epps informed the board that Railcar Co., has a contract to rehab the passenger cars on the rail.

Epps informed the board that CenterPoint is on site at the Port working on the issues of the pipeline. The project should be completed by the following week.

Epps informed the board that she attended several conferences on dredge operations where she questioned the panel on how they determined the Port of Madison Parish as a low tonnage Port. During those meetings the employees of the Corp of Engineers could not explain how or why with pending tonnage numbers that they have not accessed for the current year. The numbers they are working on are from 2022. She contacted Neil Martin asking how or who reports the tonnage to the CORP. **Neil Martin informed Kim that he did not know but would find out. Martin informed that he spoke with Gabe Gattle and he stated that the dispatchers in Baton Rouge report the tonnage. When vessel brings product to Tallulah and drop that tonnage is reported for to the CORP. Neil added that should anyone drop product in Madison as a grain carrier that company should report that tonnage**.

Epps informed the board that the maintenance repairs are set to begin on Monday, October 28, 2024, at the RailCar Co. site. She explained that there was some miscommunication between the employees and Bannister Electric. Kim stated that she communicated with Bannister Electric and Dan the issues were resolved with the start of the project.

Commissioner Frazier questioned the discussion of the hay storage at the Port? Commissioner Collins stated that he thought that Sheppard and Militaru would be at the meeting tonight. Collins stated that the location of the hay would be on the other side of the fence. Epps stated that he cannot access the Andersons property to store hay. Collins stated that he informed the group that they must have all the insurance documents for release of liability. Commissioner Frazier stated that the Port is not designed to store hay. Commissioner Collins suggested contacting the attorney and insurance brokers to have support on the decision of not allowing the storage of hay. Commissioner Griffin stated that Sheppard is trying to start a business on Port property. Commissioner Griffin stated that those people should have come to the board to speak with the board before anything else. Commissioner Collins stated that the group was under the impression that they could sublease from a tenant at the Port.

Epps informed the board that she is moving forward with turning lane of Hwy 65 to Port Road. Commissioner Collins stated that would be good for the Port. Epps stated that she is working with Volkert on the study and the cost. Neil Martin suggested that having the study done during harvest time. Epps stated that the study was done during harvest and when Port Road was under construction. DOTD stated that the turning lane meets the requirements, but they are unable to fund the project. Epps stated that she also wants to rebuild the sewer treatment plant. Commissioner Collins questioned the conditions of the current sewer treatment plant. Epps indicated that the plant requires upgrading and/or replacing, she added that every two years she replaces a pump. The board agreed to both projects.

**Public comments: N/A**

There being no further business brought before the board; Chairperson Frazier declared the meeting adjourned.

Kimmeka Epps Donald Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer President