The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at the Madison Parish Port Commission Office. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Donald Frazier and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Donald Frazier, Charles Vining, Jim Tucker,

Latasha Griffin, Robert Charles Brown and Isaiah Ross

Commissioners absent: Harold Allen

Other members present: Patrick Terry Murphy, Executive Director &

Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: Dino Trevino, DSR, Kevin Allen, Terral River Service and Fred Eubanks

Secretary Epps asked the board for approval on amending the agenda to add a Resolution for DOTD. On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and Commissioner Brown on approving the amendment to the agenda on item F. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and Commissioner Griffin on approving the previous meeting minutes on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. The minutes were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Epps informed the board that two tenants are now in current status with their lease payments. Vice-Chairman Vining questioned the rates on the CD(s) stating that the rates are increasing. Secretary Epps gave the rates on the CD(s) as of today. Vice-Chairman suggested looking into other financial institutions for better rates.

On motion given by Commissioner Tucker and seconded by Commissioner Ross, the financial reports were approved with no necessary changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Epps discussed the renewal rates on Insurance renewal for the Port Office and the fencing on Lansing Property. Epps explained the clause added to the new renewal concerning roof damages.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the Insurance Renewal 2022 for the Port Office and fencing on the Lansing Property. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Murphy stated that things are finally moving with RailCar Co. Minneapolis. The monies will soon be coming in from the contract with Minneapolis to get started on 33 cars. Personnel from Minneapolis has visited the location twice. The survey crew was there to view where the rail will be placed. Murphy stated that Railcar Co is hiring. The issue remains with Patrick Electric on duplicate invoices. **Visitor Fred Eubank questioned the job creation at RailCar Co once the railcars come in**. Murphy stated that the projection is 60 to 70 persons within 12-18 months. **Kevin Allen (Terral) questioned whether the jobs are skilled labor jobs.** Murphy stated that most are entry level and some with basic skills.

Murphy informed the board that he would like to replace the previous signs he had up. This company will provide a better sign and sturdier one**. Kevin Allen stated that some persons were fishing below the ramp.** Murphy stated that he spoke with the persons about their safety on the river bank. Murphy contacted Sheriff Byrd to inform him of the persons on the property. Commissioner Ross questioned what the Sheriff’s response was. Murphy added that the Sheriff spoke with them. Murphy stated that soon there will be a need for security options (fencing). **Eubanks questioned if the Port had cameras**. Murphy stated that the only cameras are the ones Delta Southern has. **Kevin Allen stated that cables were there several years ago but due to the complaints Terral remove them.** Murphy stated that Terral has the right to restrict the areas in their lease. Vice-Chairman Vining questioned what will identify authorized personnel? Murphy stated that anyone doing busy with the tenant of the Port are authorized. Vice-Chairman Vining stated that there has to be a better way to handle it, adding that signs aggravates people. He stated that Port road is the only access to the river. Commissioner Griffin questioned Vining what his recommendation are in this situation. Do we get the signs and the public can still fish? Vining stated yes let’s do that first and see how that works. Vining stated that the CORP controls the river. Commissioner Ross stated that the road leads you to the river and really not much the Port can do about the public accessing the river. Murphy stated that the Port owns the road after the railroad crossing.

On motion given by Commissioner Ross and seconded by Commissioner Brown, to approve the Director to purchase authorized only signs for the Port. Motion carried unanimously.

Murphy inform the board that the Infra-Grant monies for the additional rail will help Complex Chemical. The rail is complete from Magee, Arkansas to Lake Village, Ark. The rail in Lake Providence will be upgraded. Which the Port of Madison will soon be next in line for the project. **Dino Trevino (DSR) stated that over 2500 railroad ties were installed and they have no issues getting to Lake Providence.** Commissioner Ross questioned the status of the rail running east to west? **Trevino stated that it use to be 2 or 3 hours now it’s 30 minutes**. **Fred Eubank commented on Economic Development by stating that Murphy said the Port is exploring in creating a position to help with Economic Development. Eubank provided a little about himself and provided the board with his resume. He stated if the Port is looking to create a position for economic development he would like to be considered.** Murphy added that he spoke with Tana Trichell about a large bio-fuel company that is looking to operate in the Louisiana. Murphy provided Tana with the specifications of the Port that were in question from the entity. **Dino stated that bio fuels is huge and the next generation that is out there.** Commissioner Ross question some of the board members on export shipping at a distance or near? Commissioner Tucker stated that most of it would be advantageous because most of product ships down the river. Vice-Chairman Vining states the only problem he sees with the backlash from the urban areas. Them thinking that grain making fuel taking away from the food supply.

Secretary Epps provided information to support a Resolution between Department of Transportation DOTD and the Madison Parish Port. Vice-Chairman Vining questioned why the resolution was required. Secretary Epps stated that the resolution is a part of the required paperwork to complete with the grant process.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, authorizing the Secretary to move forward with the resolution between DOTD and the Madison Parish Port. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

Yea: 6

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Brown, to move into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to end the executive session and return to regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public comments: None**

There being no further business brought before the board, Chairman Frazier declared the meeting adjourned.

Kimmeka Epps Donald Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer Chairman

**\*\*bold text denotes visitor comment\*\***