The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 10, 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, Isaiah Ross, Jim Tucker, Latasha Griffin, David Williams and Curt Collins

Commissioners absent: Robert Charles Brown and David Williams

Other members present Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: N/A

Commissioner Collins arrived during Item B the discussion of withdrawing funds from the General Fund account.

On motion given by Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Tucker approving the previous meeting minutes for Tuesday July 23, 2024, the minutes were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Epps stated no changes to the financial report however she did add that the CD rates dropped. She utilized a bump to increase the rate.

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

Epps provided resolutions to withdraw funds from the General Fund to open an additional CD with the funds withdrawn. Commissioner Collins previously requested the opening of an additional CD. Epps also provided a resolution for the opening of a third CD with Guaranty Bank. Chairman Frazier questioned the amount of the CD? The amount of the withdrawal is $500,000.00.

On motion given by Commissioner Tucker and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to withdraw funds from the General Fund account. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain: 0 `

On motion given by Commissioner Tucker and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to open a CD at Guaranty Bank with the funds withdrawn from the General Fund account. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain:0

Epps informed the board that several rail ties needed to be replaced on the track at Complex Chemical. She obtained 3 quotes and selected a vendor to complete the work. The job involved 2- 16 footers at each of the three switches. The job is completed. Epps informed the board that CenterPoint Energy has agreed to fix the issues of the pipeline at the Port. Madison Port nor Complex Chemical will not be responsible for any costs associated with repairs to the pipeline. Commissioner Ross questioned the halt of operations with the repairs to the pipeline. No service interruptions.

Epps informed the board that the dredge had arrived at the Port. The operations of dredging at the Port are four days. Commissioner Collins questioned if the dredging operations help the area? Epps stated not much but it was done. There has been an island forming in that section of the Mississippi River for a long time and when the river stages are low the island appears therefore halting the operations at the Port of Madison.

Epps informed the board that the scale is installed, and the usage of the scale is excessive and excellent for the operations at Terral. Epps informed the board that she received the invoice for the installation of the scale. Epps suggested to the board repaying the cost quarterly. The board agreed.

Epps presented the board that a resolution to award the bidder of the maintenance repairs at RailCar Co. Epps informed the board that the time lapse as expired of extensions from the bidder. Epps suggested to the board to approve the resolution for the bidder to order supplies and hopefully by the time the job begins, DRA will approve the pending funds requested. Epps added that the second grant applied for is still on the table, pending documents from RailCar Co. the president of RailCar Co has issues with the contractual agreements of the Participation Agreement with DRA. Commissioner Collins questioned the number of bidders and bids presented by each company? Epps stated that 2 bidders were present, and the bids ranged from $650,000.00 to 780,000.00. The bid was awarded to the lowest bidder.

On motion given by Commissioner Griffin and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to award Bannister Electric as the company to rehab the project RailCar Co Maintenance Repairs.

Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain: 0

Epps informed the board of the status of funding from SEADD INFRA Grant. Epps is working with SEADD and DRA to obtain match monies to support the grant from DOTD. The next meeting with SEADD will confirm the start and end of the extension of the rail at the Port of Madison.

Epps informed the board of the information received from George Sheppard. Sheppard asked that the board allow him to store hay on the property of RailCar Co. Commissioner Collins stated that he was told that Sheppard wanted to store 10,000 bales of hay inside the gate at the back of the property. Commissioner Ross stated that would be a major liability to the Port and RailCar Co. The board expressed concerns with fire and insurance coverages. Commissioner Collins stated that if RailCar co allows Sheppard to store hay on the property, Dan would have to follow the guidelines of the lease with the Port and consult with the Port of a decision. All the necessary insurance requirements must be met.

Commissioner Tucker resigned during the close of the meeting. The board accepted the resignation of Jim Tucker and thanked him for serving on the board.

**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