The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at the Port Commission Office. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frazier and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Donald Frazier, Charles Vining, Isaiah Ross, Harold Allen and Robert Charles Brown

Commissioners absent: Jim Tucker and Latasha Griffin

Other members present: Mr. Terry Murphy, Director and Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: None

Murphy discussed old business concerning the insurance issues concerning additional charges. Murphy spoke with another representative from Reeves, Coon and Funderburg about the charges added to the policy. Darren Reeves and Terry Murphy came to an agreement about the additional charges. The $1000.00 was removed from the insurance policy. Murphy also stated that he will continue to get proposals from several insurance companies.

On motion given by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Vining, on the previous meeting minutes from the March 31, 2015 the minutes were approved with necessary changes by Murphy adding a line to state that . Murphy reported that the state of Louisiana generates 20 million dollars to the Ports in Louisiana, but the state taxes generated a half of a billion dollars as a result of Port businesses. Although the Ports don’t get their share as others do. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Vining asked of the interest amount on the CD’s. Secretary Epps informed the board that the maturity date is in May for the CD in question. Commissioner Vining asked of amount from the Capital One account. Secretary Epps informed Commissioner Vining of the withdrawn amount from the Capital one account.

 On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, the financial reports were approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Murphy informed that both items b & g will be discussed together. Murphy meet with Ken Oakes (Coast Guard) to discuss the Port’s security. Murphy stated that the Port is a non-regulated Port so the Port will not get some of the benefits as a regulated Port would. When applying for grants the Port has to use a different category due to the Port being non-regulated. The Port is non-regulated by the Coast Guard but, we are in the Coast Guard’s district. Murphy informed the board that he is using the Coast Guard for advice to write the Port Security grant. Ken informed Murphy that with the chemical company being at the Port, he could write in for special equipment for the local Fire department. Murphy also stated that he has spoken with Fire Chief Harold Allen and the Police Jury concerning the equipment that he could possibly get haz- mat material in the event of a natural disaster. Ken also explained how important it is to have security on the river. Murphy consulted with Jerry Melton about the security system that Complex Chemical has installed. Murphy contacted a security firm to meet with him to discuss the equipment needed and the cost for all services provided. The security firm will get proposals for the Port. Murphy informed the security firm of what he would like to have monitored at the Port.

Murphy presented the board with the letters he submitted to the elected officials for infrastructure development, etc.

Murphy informed the board that he met with Jerry Melton to discuss the preliminary lease and took some of the items out of the leases that has been in the leased for a longtime. In which the rail fee will be add to the lease. Murphy stated that he wasn’t sure of the legality of leases already signed. Murphy believes that this is the information Jerry Melton gave him for the amount of the railcars. The amount of the rail fee will be $30 a car/first 50-100 and 100-500 or 600 $20 a car, and everything above that 600 number the amount is $10 a car.

The Mike Foster lease is complete. Murphy stated that he took the lease to Mike Foster and Mike informed Murphy that the attorney contacted him to advise that some changes have taken place in the lease. Murphy suggested to Mike Foster to hold on to the lease until he consults with the attorney about any changes. Murphy informed the board that he is waiting to get the lease signed by all parties.

Murphy also stated that the Jimmy Sanders lease is ready to be approved tonight. Murphy also stated that Terral River Service is paying the through put fee. Commissioner Vining asked if the current board should set the lease for the remaining years? Secretary Epps advised the board that the language in the current Jimmy Sanders lease is information from prior lease agreements. Murphy suggested to the board that the Port use CPI (consumer price index) rates for lease renewals. Murphy stated that he has discussed the lease options with the attorney during several lease meetings. Murphy asked the board to table this item for further discussions with the attorney.

 On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, that the approval of the Jimmy Sanders lease be tabled until next month. Motion carried unanimously.

Murphy informed the board of the Tiger grant preparation. The new rules to apply for the Tiger grant is time-sensitive. A pre-application must be submitted by May 6th and submit another application in June. Commissioner Vining questioned the cost of the consultant fees for submitting the Tiger grant? Murphy stated that he will meet with Robbie the following day and get the cost of preparing the Tiger grant. Murphy stated that he will negotiate and if the cost is not feasible he will not do it. Commissioner Vining stated that each time the Commission is paying the cost for preparation and not getting the grants reward to the Port. Vining also stated that each year this grant will come available and the Commission is spending monies on preparation fees and not taking anything in. Commissioner Allen stated that the cost shouldn’t be great because the consultant is not starting from scratch preparing the grant he is only revising it. Murphy explained that all information in the document is good information and monies well spent. The information explains the five year plan for the operation of the Port. Murphy stated that he is sure that the cost will not be the same as last year unless he adds a lot to the grant. Murphy stated that he will be adding all the security equipment for the Port and he is also applying with the Department of Transportation to widen the road. Murphy stated that safety items must be in the grant (haz-mat training and other items for the fire department). Commissioner Ross asked questions about the grant writer, he stated that most grant writer are not paid unless the grants are approved. Chairman Frazier stated that there is a lot of work in preparing the Tiger grant. In this grant he would be paid if the grant was funded or not. But most grants he doesn’t get paid unless the grant is funded.

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to authorize the Executive Director move forward with the preparation of the Tiger Grant with limitations on the amount to pay the grant writer. Motion carried unanimously

Murphy informed the board of the NELEA board meeting. He stated that the NELEA board is still promoting the site in Rayville. In which that project could help our area if it gets up and running.

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, the board voted to enter into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A roll call was taken.

On motion given by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Vining, the board voted to enter into regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion given by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Vining, to approve a 5% merit increase to the Secretary/Treasurer at the beginning of her 6th month employment. Motion carried unanimously

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

Kimmeka Epps Donald Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer Chairman