WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Calvin Deshotel, President of the Port Commission. Mr. Ralph Longman led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present: Absent:

Tad Blevins

Calvin Deshotel

Ralph Longman

Greg Paul

John Lockett

Willie Peters

Wayne Stevens

Phil Bell

Wilson Terry

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. Paul Naquin, St. Mary Parish Council President, Mr. Cameron Webster and Mr. David Webster of Twin Brothers Marine, Mr. Ante Tesvich of Tesvich Enterprises, Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director and Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Stevens to dispense with the reading of the January 10, 2012 meeting minutes and to accept the same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry and carried unanimously.

Under Public Comment, Mr. Paul Naquin told the Commission that the Parish Council has been having Public Hearings for a Master Plan for St. Mary Parish. He reported on several items contained in the Master Plan.

Mr. Cameron Webster of Twin Brothers Marine spoke to the Commission concerning his company’s opposition to a permit application that would allow the location of a private marina proposed. Mr. Webster reminded the Commission that the Port is zoned as Heavy Industrial. Mr. Webster said that Twin Brothers has been in business at the Port for over 30 years and has quite an investment in their operations at the Port of West St. Mary. Mr. Webster requested that the Port Commission continue to support their tenants at the Port and stressed that his company is not opposed to the various fishermen in the area. He also suggested that the Port and the owners of the property wishing to develop the marina consider a property swap in another area of the Port. Mr. Webster thanked the Commission for their time and attention.

Mr. Ante Tesvich addressed the Commission and told them that his main business with his partner is heavy construction and heavy industrial. He circulated a brochure to the Commissioners that explained the nature of his business, mainly tugboats, cranes and barges. He said the main reason the property was purchased was to have a commercial dock for industrial purposes. He said it was thought that the property could be used for a multi-dimensional facility. Mr. Terry asked Mr. Tesvich why the original permit application stated that it would be a recreational marina and what is his definition of multi-use. Mr. Tesvich stated that when his father purchased the property, he had the idea of not limiting the use of the property for certain industrial use. His definition of multi-use is not to limit to one specific group or sector of people. Discussion followed. Mr. Stevens said that after looking at the Permit application, the proposal for 50 boat slips does not appear to be for heavy industrial use. Mr. Tesvich said the permit application may need to be reworded. Discussion followed.

Mr. Duplantis said that nothing Mr. Tesvich or his father has presented has changed why the Port Commission originally voted to oppose the permit application. A motion was made by Mr. Stevens to oppose the permit application for the marina as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Terry to remove Greg Paul’s name, Past President as an authorized signature and to authorize the signatures of the recently elected Port Executive Committee consisting of Calvin Deshotel – President, Ralph Longman - Vice President and Willie Peters – Secretary/Treasurer and David Allain, Executive Director for all of the Port of West St. Mary’s financial accounts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Longman to surplus a broken 1989 IBM typewriter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paul and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported that the Louisiana Board of Ethics is requiring that all public service Commission members shall receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on the Code of Governmental Ethics during each year of his term of office. A website is available on the internet with a 60 minute class which will satisfy the requirement. Mr. Allain asked the Commissioners to please supply the Port Commission office with a copy of their completed certificate for the Port Commission files and offered the assistance of the Port staff if needed.

Mr. Allain reported that repairs to the National Oilwell Varco building have been completed.

Mr. Allain reported that Marine Turbine Technologies’ employment has increased and is approaching 80 employees. They are having problems accommodating the parking needs of their employees. MTT is interested in leasing additional acreage and they would construct their own parking lot. Mr. Allain presented two options – Option #1 – is across the road and would require crossing the railroad track to access the parking area. The Port would have to prepare the site to cross the railroad track by placing a 54” inch culvert in the ditch and also to have a railroad crossing installed. The St. Mary Parish Government will install the culvert with the Port purchasing the culvert and the Port would fund the installation of the rail crossing. Option #2 – is located behind the MTT facility. MTT would require approximately two acres for the parking area which is in a 15 acre site that Mr. Allain had an inquiry about. The company has expressed interest in the full 15 acres. Option #1 would give access to the property by constructing the rail crossing. Mr. Peters said that in his opinion, it would be advantageous to the Port to install the rail crossing across the road from MTT to give access to the property for future development. Mr. Allain presented the Commissioners with proposed pricing for the purchase of the culvert and the installation of the rail crossing. A motion was made by Mr. Longman to approve Option #1 for the parking area to be leased to Marine Turbine Technologies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Longman to amend the budget to cover the costs of Option #1 for the purchase of the culvert and the installation of the railroad crossing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry and carried unanimously.

With reference to the Sugar Growers and Refiners, Inc., Mr. Allain was advised by the Port’s legal counsel that a Statute prohibits all public bodies from investing public money in private entities. Mr. Duplantis explained the Statute to the Commissioners. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Mr. Terry to authorize Mr. Deshotel as President and Mr. Peters as Secretary to sign the lease with D & L Salvage which will be completed soon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bell and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain suggested the Commission consider updating its existing Master Plan. Mr. Allain reported that he would gather information on costs and would report back to the Commission. Mr. Miller said that his office has information stored electronically.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Mr. Terry to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Willie Peters, Secretary