

Avoyelles Parish Port Commission
170 Honeybee Lane
P.O. Box 126
Simmesport, Louisiana 71369

Regular Meeting

May 16, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Barry Laiche called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission at 5:30 p.m. on May 16, 2022, at Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

By Commissioner Scott Williams

III. PRAYER:

By Commissioner Patrick Deshotels

IV. ROLL CALL:

Port Director Sam Ducote conducted the roll call. The following individuals were present giving the meeting a quorum of three of commissioners present:

Board Chairman Mr. Barry Laiche

Commissioner Mr. Scott Williams

Commissioner Patrick Deshotels

Mr. Stacy Auzenne (Port Counsel)

Ms. Aloysia Ducote (Ducote & Company)

Ms. Kasey Meche (Ducote & Company)

Mr. Will Bailey (Lafayette Websites)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments.

VI. TREASURES REPORT:

Commissioner Lemoine was absent from meeting due to illness.

VII. ADOPTION OF PRIOR MINUTES:

Minutes from the February and March meetings were unavailable for adoption.

VIII. DELEGATES FIVE MINUTE RULE:

Public participants had no comments.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- A) 2020-2021 review report was given by Ms. Aloysia Ducote. The report concluded that there were no violations found. Ms. Ducote emphasized the importance of using the State Contract system for purchasing when possible and that the limit for having to publicly bid is \$30,000.00.
- B) The Commission discussed replacing existing lights at the public boat launch and adding two more poles with lights. Commissioner Scott Williams made the motion to approve the amount of \$4,426.00, the bid from Bordelon Electric to both repair the existing lights as well as add two additional poles with the total of four lights. Commissioner Deshotels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Laiche requested Port Director Ducote to contact Simmesport Chief of Police to enquire on additional patrols by Simmesport police to help deter theft and vandalism on port property.

X. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Commissioner Williams procured two bids for the purchase of a new tractor for the port. Both bids were delivered via State Contract system. Chairman Laiche requested a commissioner move to revoke the Commission's prior resolution to put this matter out to public bid and to go forward with the purchase of the John Deere tractor which was made pursuant to the State Contract minimum bid and under the understanding that they are a state contract who has been awarded that bid and approve the purchase of the John Deere tractor and eight foot bush hog in the amount of \$45,044.73. Commissioner Deshotels so moved, and Commissioner Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- A) Presentation by Will Bailey of Lafayette Websites

Mr. Will Bailey presented to the board his plan to build and maintain and maximize a new website for the Port of Avoyelles. The commissioners outlined to Mr. Bailey of how they would like website to appear and function. Chairman Laiche entertained a motion from the commissioners to make a motion to allow a budget amendment for \$5,000.00 for website development and authorize Chairman Laiche and Port Director Ducote direct necessary activities to get website functioning. Commissioner Deshotels makes the motion. Commissioner Williams seconds the motion, and the motion passes unanimously.

B) Update on residential trailers moving progress.

There are four remaining trailers on site. The progress is slow, but sure and is ongoing. Port Director Ducote will stay in contact with Henderson Auctions regarding this. Chairman Laiche signed the bill of sale and Counsel Auzenne is in possession of the bill of sale and is going to communicate this to the contact at Henderson Auction.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

A) Discuss and possible approval of revised security system proposal for port office areas.

Chairman Laiche voiced his concerns on installing the new security system until completion new shed project.

B) Discuss Brudd contract.

Chairman Laiche reported that the long-term contract with Brudd Construction has been exercised and has been executed with all appropriate documents.

C) Discuss and possible approval of re-negotiated Helena contract.

Commissioner Williams and Chairman Laiche met with Helena representative and Chairman Laiche believes is important that Counsel Auzenne, Commissioner Williams and Chairman Laiche need to meet with Helena's legal staff. Chairman Laiche informed the commissioners that the Port will only receive only receive \$150,000.00 under priority one of capital outlay. \$600,000.00 has been designated as priority five, which is highly unlikely to be funded.

D) Discussion of bidding of what needs to be removed from port lands and cleaned up after all homes, sheds, and porches are removed.

Discussion between the commissioners of what needs to be performed to get the Port grounds returned to original state. Discussion was also had about the opportunity of salvaging any existing materials that would generate any income.

E) Review and discuss execute CEA documents with legal counsel (Tank Project).

Cooperative endeavor documents for the tank project have been signed and sent off to the State of Louisiana.

F) Discussion of urgent need for gates and posted signs.

Director Ducote informed the commissioners of the problem of people still trespassing on port property. The Commission decided not to pursue this agenda item until the removal of all homes, clean up and restoration of port property is completed. Further discussion of the new shed also took place.

XII ADJOURN MEETING:

Commissioner Williams made motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Deshotels seconded the motion. The next regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission will take place on June 2020, 2022, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Headquarters. The meeting adjourned.