COLUMBIA PORT COMMISSION Dec 9 ,2021

MINUTES MEETING:

COMMISSIONERS: DARRON MCGUFFEE, BRUCE FRAZIER, JOHN COOKSEY, Charles Hearns, Monty Adams,jr. Guest: Bob Meredith, Paul S., Gary Lagrange. DIRECTOR: GREG RICHARDSON

Meeting was called to order by Darron McGuffee, Port President at the home of John Cooksey. The December meeting is our annual Christmas Party so while the commission meet and discussed port activities during the festivities no actions were taken by the board.

READING OF THE MINUTES AND BANK STATEMENTS, were suspended

ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING MEETING

The Port Commission received a Report from its director pertaining to work performed on their behalf to secure grants for infrastructure improvements to the Port. We discussed a variety of activities as well as the upcoming workload which would be placed on the position of Port Director with the implementation of the $15 million grant. Greg requested that his position as Port Director be made full time, with a 3 year contract due to the upcoming construction schedule. Greg requested $85,000 per year plus expenses making him an employee of the port in lieu of a contract employee.

Gary Lagrange gave his report to the commission’s summarizing the need for a full-time director as well as compensation for port directors in the region. In summary Gary recommendation were that the upcoming work load would require a full-time port director, that you could not argue with the success the current part-time port director has had with developing the port over the past 20 years, and the salary compensation requested was below the average range for Port Directors.

Commissioner requested the following information: To have the port attorney to review Louisiana RS 34 and our charter to determine the rules pertaining to hiring a port director as it pertains to making our port directors position full time.

 **(The report of the Port attorney was provided to port commission prior to the January meeting in which the report states there is no issues with making the current port director position full time.)**

To have the port attorney to review the employment contract for the Port Director.

 **(The attorney reviewed the contract and provided a letter which outlined an issue with the terms of the contract, a three year with an annual (1year) renewal. The Commission discussed the attorney review with the Port Director and both parties determined that a 3 year contract was more favorable than a longer term contract. To address the issue of the contract raised by our Attorney (the annual extension) it was agreed that the annual 1year extension would only be allowed by the vote of the board each year.)**

LGF Bob Meredith gave a status update of the biofuel project and Paul S. gave a review of funding efforts as well as presented a 3D map of the proposed facility.

**Motion was made by Charles hearns to adjourn the meeting second by Bruce Frazier motion LG**