Greater Ouachita Port Commission Minutes

October 11, 2017

Monroe Chamber of Commerce

Commissioners Present: Ricky Guillot, Terri Odom, James Lee, James Jones, Roland Charles and Sue Nicholson

Commissioners Absent: Bobby Manning

Guests: Josh Hays with Lazenby and Associates, Paul Trichel and Richard Richardson with OT and Maci Burchfield (Job shadowing with Terri Odom)

Call to Order

Chairman Guillot called the meeting to order and offered an invocation. The commission reviewed the minutes from the October 11 meeting. Commissioner Jones moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charles. Motion passed.

Financial Report

The commission reviewed the financial report as of October 11th. The account balance was as follows:

 The GOA has a balance of $190,433.89

 The PPA has a balance of $139.45

 The EDA has a balance of $92

 The FPC Account remains open with a -0- balance

Commissioner Lee moved that the October 11th financial report be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nicholson. Motion passed.

Treasurer Odom reminded the Commission members that it is time to sign an engagement letter with Johnston, Perry and Johnston for the 2017 audit. Commissioner Nicholson moved to approve the request for an engagement letter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charles. Motion passed.

Construction Report

No report at this time

Operations Report

Richard Richardson with Ouachita Terminals gave an update on port operations. Graphic Packaging no longer has through put on their shipments to Europe. These shipments are now out of the Macon, Georgia Plant. The Greater Ouachita Port is still the departure port for shipments to Japan. GOP still has a lot of aggregate rock shipments.

The port has intermodal capabilities, which provides opportunities for more diversity in shipments. They are actively pursuing new business. They hired a consultant to assist with new clients, but have not had a lot of luck yet. Some of the new more restrictive laws for trucking may help drive some shipments back to water and that could help increase shipments through the port.

Some of what impacts the port is that many manufacturers use freight forwarders. When they do, it is up to the freight forwarder how shipments are shipped and which ports are used. Richard and Paul will continue to market the port and to seek new customers.

Adjournment

The GOPC will meet again at noon on November 8 at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. There being no further business, the GOPC adjourned.