The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at the Madison Parish Port Commission Office. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Vining and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Donald Frazier, Charles Vining, Robert Charles Brown, Jim Tucker, David Williams and Latasha Griffin

Commissioners absent: Isaiah Ross

Other members present: Patrick Terry Murphy, Executive Director &

Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: Jaime Webb, Terral River Service & Dan Militaru, Randall Roberson and Troy Lavoie, RailCar Co.

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Brown, to amend the agenda to add employee increments to item D. Motion carried unanimously

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and Commissioner Griffin on approving the previous meeting minutes on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. The minutes were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Epps discussed the invoices from the road project and Volkert.

On motion given by Commissioner Tucker and seconded by Vice-Chairman Vining, the financial reports were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Murphy provided information on the Port Road Project. Murphy stated that the project is complete. There are still conversations looming with the completion of the road at Terral River Service**. Jamie Webb & Vice-Chairman Vining were discussing the conditions of the area in its current state.** Murphy stated that he will speak with Neal regarding the decision at Terral River Service.

Secretary Epps discussed required items needed to complete the grant application with DRA. In speaking with DRA according to Epps, they allowed the Port to add a copy of RailCar Co.’s lease with the Port as support for the grant. **Dan Militaru stated that he submitted the participation agreement to Bubba Chaney at DRA.** Epps stated that she would follow up with Tracy on the submission. President Frazier questioned will the grant monies cover the electrical project that RailCar Co is requesting. Epps explained the narrative of the grant from the information that the consultant provided and she spoke with the consultant and the engineer to add the electrical components to the grant. Epps is unaware if that would cover the entire electrical issues at RailCar Co. **Commissioner Williams stated that the electrical needs to be a priority at RailCar Co. He also stated that the roof is leaking and could pose a serious problem for the entity. Vice-Chairman Vining questioned the decision on the priority of needs for RailCar Co. Commissioner Williams questioned the safety protocols within the building. Commissioner Brown questioned the employment numbers with the proper electrical restored to the building.**

**Public comments: Dan Militaru (RailCar Co) spoke to the board regarding the necessary upgrades to the building to get his operation up and running properly. Due to the vandalism of the property Militaru is asking the board to step in immediately and correct the issues. He stated that he understands that the Port is working on a grant to make some corrections but at this time he is requesting the electrical within the building be a main priority. Randall Roberson (RailCar Co) informed the board where the electrical needs to start and end of repairs. Militaru ended with the cost estimate of using a generator to supply the facility with electricity. In addition to adding that his business is at a standstill without the proper electrical supplied to the building.**

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Brown, to move into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion given by Vice-Chairman Vining and seconded by Commissioner Brown, to end the executive session and return to regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion given by Commissioner Tucker and seconded by Commissioner Williams, to increase the employee rate of pay by 5% for a one year period expiring 9/01/24). **Motion was carried unanimously.**

Roll Call

Yea: 4

Nay: 2

Absent: 1

Abstain: 0

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

Kimmeka Epps Donald Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer President