The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at the Madison Parish Port Office. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frazier and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Donald Frazier, Charles Vining, Robert Charles Brown, Isaiah Ross and Jim Tucker

Commissioners absent: Harold Allen and Latasha Griffin

Other members present: Mr. Terry Murphy, Director and Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: Carl Thomas (Citizen), Kevin Allen (Terral River Service) and Carlton Whitaker (Whitaker Water Consultants)

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Tucker, on approving the previous meeting minutes on Tuesday, January 23, 2018. The minutes were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Murphy stated that the interest on accounts have exceeded his expectation within the last three years. Murphy added that he is happy with the growth of the accounts.

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

Murphy discuss the Port Priority Grant. He met with the Department of Transportation about the Port road. He asked if the state would take over that road. The persons in the Transportation Department suggest applying for a Port Priority grant to help with the issues and/or expansion of the road. Murphy stated that the road needs widening and hopefully the grant will cover that if approved. He also wants to purchase equipment from State purchasing for the use of the Delta Southern Railroad. An agreement of use and future purchase of the equipment will be done between Delta Southern and the Madison Parish Port. Commissioner Vining asked whether the grant was a state or federal grant. Murphy stated that it is a state grant. Commissioner Vining wants to co-authorize a letter with the Police Jury when the process begins.. Simply because the Jury maintains the road.
Vining stated now is the time to consult with the Police Jury on repairs. Commissioner Ross asked if the grant is awarded where will the match monies come from. Murphy stated that the Port will have to put up the match.

Murphy reported the progress on the river bank. B&B Constructions cleared the property and uncovered a ramp during the process. The river is high right now and hopefully it will remove all the debris when the river starts to crest.

Murphy suggest starting the process of exploring additional land for future growth of the Port. Murphy Oil owns land on both sides of the Port. Murphy asked the board to consider allowing him to speak with Murphy Oil about the purchase of land.

Murphy inform the board on the updates of the water tower. The work will begin once the weather is warmer according to Murphy. The tank will be drained to replace the valve that is leaking. Carlton Whitaker (Whitaker Water Consultant) has weatherproof the valve until PMD starts the work on the tank.

Murphy reported that another railroad company is interested in the Northrup Grumman building. The company wants controlling interest in the railroad. DSR and the other company will communicate with each other concerning the railroad. Commissioner Ross asked what’s the logic on who controls it. Murphy added the company that spends the most money will have controlling interest. The Port will benefit on a good lease and the number of rail cars coming into the Port and shipping them out of the Port. Commissioner Vining stated that with the economy booming right now may be the time for someone to do something.

 **Public comments**: Carlton Whitaker informed the board that Louisiana Rural Water has put out a census on wells. Whitaker advised if anyone has wells now is the time to have them drilled. He provided information to the board on the information from Louisiana Rural Water.

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

Kimmeka Epps Donald Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer Chairman