WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 7, 2013

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Calvin Deshotel, President of the Port Commission. Mr. Wayne Stevens led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present: Absent:

Tad Blevins Greg Paul

Calvin Deshotel Wilson Terry

Ralph Longman

Joseph Tabb

Willie Peters

Wayne Stevens

Phil Bell

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. Roger Stouff of the Franklin Banner, Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director and Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Longman to dispense with the reading of the April 2, 2013 meeting minutes and to accept the same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tabb and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain wished Ms. Marguerite happy birthday.

Mr. Deshotel asked if there was any public comment – there was none.

Mr. Allain reported that it was time to adopt a millage rate for the year 2013. The present millage rate is 3.72 and he reported with regards to collections, we are tracking 2012 almost dollar for dollar. There is a larger tax base with a smaller percentage and it stays revenue neutral. A motion was made by Mr. Peters to stay revenue neutral and to adopt the millage rate at 3.72. The motion was seconded by Mr. Longman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported that he is in receipt of the completed Master Plan from Volkert and offered copies to the Commissioners for their review. A motion was made by Mr. Blevins to pay the final invoice as requested in the amount of $15,739.00 to Volkert for the updating of the Port’s Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported that repairs have been completed to the Port’s rail system and the rail is up to standard now. A motion was made by Mr. Peters to pay the invoice for repairs to the Port’s rail system, as requested, to Trac Works in the amount of $38,316.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blevins and carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported on the need for natural gas at the Port site. Marine Turbine Technologies and Twin Brothers Marine have both expressed a need for natural gas. Mr. Allain has been trying to secure funding through Port Priority without success. Mr. Allain said there is a Columbia gas main transmission line on the Port just to the southeast. He has spoken with Atmos Gas who is a distributor and reported that it would take Atmos and Columbia Gas to supply natural gas to the Port. Preliminary cost estimates to run the gas line to the Port is approximately $1,200,000.00. Mr. Allain suggested to the Commission that they hire someone to help solicit grants, low interest loans, etc. for funding of the location of the natural gas line at the Port. Mr. Allain contacted a firm with experience in locating grant money and writing grants for projects such as the gas line location. The cost would be $2500 per month and Mr. Allain recommended a 60 to 90 day trial to determine if this effort would be successful. Mr. Duplantis said that he spoke with individuals who spoke highly of the Mabile and Associates firm, the firm that Mr. Allain contacted, and were very pleased with the outcome of their efforts and that the firm comes highly recommended. Discussion followed. Marine Turbine is willing to share in the cost. Mr. Allain said that he felt for the sake of the Port’s future tenants, it would be best if the Port ran its own gas lines to supply the Port area. A motion was made by Mr. Peters to hire the firm for two months at a rate of $2500.00 per month. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blevins and carried unanimously.

Mr. Duplantis reminded the Commissioners that their Financial Disclosures are due by May 15th.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Mr. Stevens to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

 Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Willie Peters, Secretary