

**SOUTH TANGIPAHOA PARISH PORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024 9:00AM
CITY HALL ANNEX BUILDING - 110 W. HICKORY ST., PONCHATOULA, LA**

President Daryl Ferrara called the regular meeting to order on August 14, 2024 at 9:10 AM. The meeting was held at the City Hall Annex Building, located at 110 W. Hickory Street, Ponchatoula, LA.

The invocation was led by Administrative Assistant Robyn Pusey, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner William Sims.

Commissioners Present: Daryl Ferrara, Tina Roper, Timothy DePaula, William Sims

Commissioners Absent: William "Bill" Joubert, Jimmy Schliegmeyer, Jr., Rhonda Sheridan

President Ferrara welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ginger Cangelosi of the Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation, and Paul Bartow of Specialty Diving for their attendance. Others in attendance included Patrick Dufresne, STPPC Executive Director, Robyn Pusey, Administrative Assistant, Lee Barends ITL Accounting, Andre Coudrain, Cashe Coudrain and Bass, Richard Meek, Daily Star

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner DePaula and seconded by Commissioner Roper that the South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission approve the regular meeting agenda for August 14, 2024, as presented. Motion passed. Yeas: 4 Ferrara, Roper, DePaula, Sims. Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Joubert, Schliegmeyer, Jr., Sheridan

President Ferrara announced that the minutes of the regular meeting on July 10, 2024, had been sent to the Commissioners electronically for review, and a copy of the minutes had been placed in their meeting folders. After a brief review of the minutes, a motion was made by Commissioner Roper and seconded by Commissioner DePaula to adopt/approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 10, 2024. Motion passed. Yeas: 4 Ferrara, Roper, DePaula, Sims. Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Joubert, Schliegmeyer, Jr., Sheridan

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial reports for the period ending July 31, 2024, had been emailed to the Commissioners for their review. Due to the absence of the STPPC Treasurer, port accountant Lee Barends reviewed the financial reports with the Commissioners. She said the balance in the Hancock Whitney general account is \$376,548.00 and asked the Commissioners if there are no more large payments to be made would they want to bring the general account total back down

to \$250,000.00 and transfer the overage to the Edward Jones account. The Executive Director and Administrative Assistant said the insurance was paid for and there shouldn't be any more large payments due. The Commissioners agreed to have the overage in the Hancock Whitney general account moved to the Edward Jones account. Ms. Barends then reviewed the Edward Jones statement with the Commissioners. President Ferrara said he will invite financial advisor Shaun McArthur to the next meeting to review options for the account.

Commissioner Roper mentioned that the insurance needs to be modified, and Ms. Barends said yes, that the budget needs to be amended, and will schedule a meeting with Commissioner/Treasurer Schliegmeyer, Jr. in September for the October meeting. She asked Executive Director Patrick Dufresne if the DOTD project had been completed, and he said the project will be completed after we pay the electrical contractor and a small retainage fee. He said this should happen before the next STPPC meeting and then the project will be completed. Ms. Barends asked if there were any questions about the general ledger or other reports and there were no questions.

President Ferrara called for a motion to approve the financials. It was moved by Commissioner Roper and seconded by Commissioner Sims that the Commission accept/approve the financials for the month ending July 31, 2024. Motion passed. Yeas: 4 Ferrara, Roper, DePaula, Sims. Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Joubert, Schliegmeyer, Jr., Sheridan

OLD BUSINESS

1. LA-DOTD Port Priority State H. 011927 – Transload Improvements – update Truck scale container update and electrical update.

Executive Director Patrick Dufresne said reimbursement for the electrical contractor should be received this week and the retainage will follow shortly after. There were no questions.

2. Warehouse Building #3 - evaluation & maintenance schedule update

Mr. Dufresne said that all the maintenance items in Warehouse Building #3 had been completed by the tenant. Port attorney Andre Coudrain said Mr. Andy Parker of Premier Chemicals asked to defer completing an ongoing maintenance schedule until his "busy time" is over. Mr. Coudrain said he will reach out to Mr. Parker in September to find out where they are in developing an ongoing maintenance schedule.

3. Barge dock repair - update

Mr. Dufresne told the Commissioners that since the last meeting he has had a couple of conference calls with the FEMA engineer who is handling the port's application. He said there is nothing definitive at this time, but it appears FEMA is proposing to fund 10% of the request. Initially the FEMA engineer handling the case thought the request might be approved and moved the request up to the next level of FEMA review. Mr. Dufresne said the FEMA engineers were "back and forth" over some grey areas regarding the damage to the barge dock before and after Hurricane Ida. He said FEMA was given 3 options; the first was an option for repair, the second option was part mitigation, and the third option required a further level of mitigation after the incident at the port earlier in the year. Mr. Dufresne said mitigation was requested to make

brief review of each invoice, starting with Craig's Electrical and Generator Service. He said the exhaust system in one of the generators had to be replaced, that it was 10 yrs old, and rain was getting into the unit. He also said one of the turbo chargers that makes the engine more efficient may need some work and he's trying to get a price for the repair. Commissioner/Secretary Roper asked what the generator was for, and Mr. Dufresne said for the warehouse buildings, that there are two 100 kilowatt generators behind each building. She asked if there was some kind of covering on the generator to keep the rain out, and Mr. Dufresne explained the engine had an exhaust enclosure on top that rusted away in the rain.

Moving on to the next invoice, Mr. Dufresne said Rail Tech Services inspected all the rail switches on the line that are in various stages of aging, some of which have been there 20 – 30 years. He said they must be inspected to ensure they are working properly, that there is a mechanical box that gets flooded and if the switches don't operate easily CN may put a lock on the track and won't deliver any cargo. Commissioner/Secretary Roper asked Mr. Dufresne if he checks the switches, and he said yes, that all the switches are inspected every 3 months and if there are any issues Rail Tech will report to him. He said one of the switches must be totally replaced, it cannot be repaired. Mr. Dufresne said there had not been any problems with the switches until recently, that the last issue may have been 5 years ago. Commissioner Sims asked how much a replacement would be, and Mr. Dufresne said around \$5,500.00, but last time he was able to find a refurbished one that was half the price. Commissioner/Secretary Roper asked Mr. Dufresne to provide a report at the next meeting regarding the upkeep of the switches, the last repair or replacement dates that will enable us to keep track of the switches moving forward. Lee Barends said she and the administrative assistant will work together to provide a report to the commission. Mr. Dufresne said we must act quickly to get the repair done before CN takes action to lock the track.

Mr. Dufresne said the last invoice to Illinois Central is an annual fee for the gate crossing at the port.

A motion was made by Commissioner/Secretary Roper and seconded by Commissioner DePaula that the Commission approve payment for the invoices presented today for Cashe, Coudrain & Bass, Craig's Electrical and Generator Service, Rail Technical Services, LLC and Illinois Central (CN). Motion passed. Yeas: 4 Ferrara, Roper, DePaula, Sims. Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Joubert, Schliegmeyer, Jr., Sheridan

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business today.

REMARKS

President Ferrara announced that Commissioner William "Bill" Joubert had sent notice of his resignation from the South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission, and said we are in process of finding a new commissioner. President Ferrara asked Mr. Coudrain if the Commission should wait for the seat to be filled before electing a new Vice-President. Mr. Coudrain said there is no reason to wait, unless the Commission decides to do so. He suggested putting this on the agenda when the Commission is ready to vote.

President Ferrara asked Mr. Paul Bartow of Specialty Diving if he would like to speak to the Commission. Mr. Bartow said he “wanted to see what the business of the port was these days” relating to any projects that his company can assist with. He asked specifically about the barge dock repair project and said he would be happy to discuss it with the Commission. He said his company also works with the Corps of Engineers and the Port of New Orleans. President Ferrara thanked Mr. Bartow for his attendance.

Having no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Commissioner Roper. and seconded by Commissioner DePaula. Motion passed. Yeas: 4 Ferrara, Roper, DePaula, Sims. Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Joubert, Schliegmeyer, Jr., Sheridan

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 AM.

Tina Roper, Secretary STPPC

Daryl Ferrara, President STPPC