

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION  
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

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**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, PROPERLY NOTICED AND AUTHORIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCLAMATION 159 JBE 2020, CONVENED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020 AT 1:36 PM.**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Darryl D. Berger, Chairman  
Charles H. Ponstein, Secretary-Treasurer  
Joseph T. Toomy, Member  
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** William H. Langenstein, III, Vice Chairman  
Tara C. Hernandez, Member

**STAFF:** B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer  
M. Stolzman, General Manager  
C. Kocur, Vice President, Engineering  
T. Bryant, Manager Marketing & Sales  
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel  
M. Scelson, General Counsel

**GUESTS:** B. Landry, Port of New Orleans  
R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans  
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans  
C. Coats, Port of New Orleans  
S. Gauthier, Port of New Orleans  
A. Pellegrin, Port of New Orleans  
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans  
J. Guidry, Port of New Orleans  
E. Pansano, Port of New Orleans  
T. Carter, Port of New Orleans  
J. Crist, Port of New Orleans  
G. Palermo, Port of New Orleans  
M. Gresham, Port of New Orleans  
J. Sholar, Port of New Orleans  
A. Coates, Port of New Orleans  
J. Swartout, Port of New Orleans  
R. Bylsma, Port of New Orleans  
J. Ragusa, Port of New Orleans  
C. Alfonso, Port of New Orleans  
A. Taylor, Port of New Orleans  
C. Falgoust, Port of New Orleans  
J. Woodward, Port of New Orleans  
M. Sulser, Port of New Orleans

A. Madere, Port of New Orleans  
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans  
Chief R. Hecker, Harbor Police Department  
Capt. M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department  
T. Wells  
K. Price  
B. Adams  
N. Junius  
N. Kernion

## **I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum**

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Berger confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

## **II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes for October 2020**

Chairman Berger called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for October, as previously circulated.

Commissioner Ponstein moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Toomy seconded.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **III. Action Items**

### **A. Acceptance of the October Financial Statement**

Mr. Wendel presented the October financial statement for the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission for the Port of New Orleans (“Commission”) providing an overview of the fiscal year to date revenues and expenses for the period ending October 31, 2020. He noted that both operating revenues and expenses continue to be under budget.

Commissioner Ponstein moved to accept the financial statement and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to STX Corp. in the Amount of \$1,594,900 for the Electric Controlled Hydraulic Actuation Switch Machines Project.**

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. This contract includes the purchase and installation of forty-one (41) electric controlled hydraulic switch machines and system for use at the Commission’s Cotton Warehouse yard. These switches can be thrown by the push of a button or remotely by radio rather than by hand. This reduces the potential for human error thus increasing safety and efficiency of operations. In response to an invitation to bid, STX Corp. was the sole responsive and responsible bidder with a bid of \$1,594,900. Funding is allocated in the Commission’s Operating Budget and 2019 CRISI Grant funds.

Commissioner Ponstein inquired about the provenance of the switch machines. Mr. Kocur responded that the equipment is manufactured by Advanced Rail Systems and that STX Corp. will be providing, installing and maintaining the machines. He added that there are seven (7) machines currently installed on NOPB's network, which have been extremely reliable.

Commissioner Leger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Pointer Smith Contracting Corporation in the Amount of \$964,097.50 for the Construction of Kingfish Rail Yard in Jefferson Parish.**

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. The scope of this contract includes the construction of the Kingfish Rail Yard in Jefferson Parish. Construction of this railyard will provide additional storage capacity for 200 railcars. In response to an invitation to bid, Pointer Smith Contracting Corporation was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder out of five (5) bidders with a bid in the amount of \$964,097.50. Funding for this contract is allocated in the Commission's Operating Budget and 2019 CRISI Grant funds.

Commissioner Leger asked for clarification on the scope and location of the new railyard. Mr. Kocur highlighted the location, noting landmarks for orientation. He also noted that Kingfish construction includes the rehabilitation of one (1) existing track, and the addition of four (4) new tracks.

Commissioner Ponstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IV. Report of the General Manager**

Mr. Stolzman provided a summary of transportation operations, car shop operations, and storage and switching volumes. He noted that local switching volume has remained below expectations but a rebound was observed in early November. Class I switching volume is stable with a 10% increase expected next month.

Mr. Stolzman stated that railcar storage numbers should continue to increase, while intermodal container volume continues to be a consistent contributor to very encouraging results. Railroad dwell of 10.8 hours indicates that the railroad remains fluid while operating efficiently and safely.

Mr. Stolzman reported that engineering productivity remains far above expectations for this fiscal year, doubling or tripling production numbers over previous years. Track resurfacing and replacement of bridge and cross ties continue to exceed productivity goals. A drop in the volume of bridge tie mill production is attributable to lumber shortages caused by hurricanes. Car repair numbers are improving thanks to substantial modifications made to the car shop operating systems. Locomotive availability reached 100% for the month of October, with the leased locomotive fleet in full operation.

Commissioner Ponstein inquired about the number of locomotives used for train pulling. Mr. Stolzman explained that while a single locomotive engine is used most of the time, very heavy loads or crossing of bridges will justify adding a second locomotive to increase pulling horsepower.

## **V. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Berger called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Leger so moved and Commissioner Ponstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Berger adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.