

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

**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 18 JBE 2021, CONVENED
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021
AT 2:21 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Darryl D. Berger, Chairman
William H. Langenstein, III, Vice Chairman
Charles H. Ponstein, Secretary-Treasurer
Tara C. Hernandez, Member
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph T. Toomy, Member

STAFF: B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer
M. Stolzman, General Manager
C. Kocur, Vice President, Engineering
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel
M. Scelson, General Counsel
F. Hasbun, Office Administrator

GUESTS: M. Ganon, Port of New Orleans
B. Landry, Port of New Orleans
R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans
T. Rives, Port of New Orleans
C. Coats, Port of New Orleans
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans
M. Verderame, Port of New Orleans
J. Guidry, Port of New Orleans
E. Pansano, Port of New Orleans
C. Labat, Port of New Orleans
G. Palermo, Port of New Orleans
M. Gresham, Port of New Orleans
J. Mansour, Port of New Orleans
J. Sholar, Port of New Orleans
C. Gilmore, Port of New Orleans
A. Coates, 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

A. Madere, Port of New Orleans
P. Jackson, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
E. Abadie, Port of New Orleans
K. Barnes, Port of New Orleans
Chief R. Hecker, Harbor Police Department
Capt. M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
B. Adams
C. Sepulveda
D. Pierson, Secretary for Louisiana Economic Development
E. Potts
J. Martin
J. Tumminello
K. Horton
N. Reins
Tiffany
W. Hughs

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 2:21 p.m.

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes for January 2021

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

Commissioner Leger moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Langenstein seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Public Comment

Chairman Berger called for all agenda-related or general public comments, but there were none. Ms. Verderame confirmed there were no public comments submitted in advance or via the Zoom Chat feature.

IV. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the Financial Statement for January 2021

Mr. Wendel presented the Commission's January financial statement, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. He provided an overview of the monthly and fiscal year-to-date revenues and expenses for the period ending January 31, 2021. He noted that strong switching revenues and controlled expenses allowed for an overall operating income \$421,000 over budget.

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

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Renew the Commission’s General Liability, Huey P. Long Property Insurance, and to Pay its Reasonable Share of the Consolidated Property, Public Official’s Liability Insurance, Government Crime Insurance, Business Automobile Liability, Cyber Insurance, Terrorism, Business Automobile Liability Insurance, and Other Coverages, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$1,709,906, all Arranged through Arthur J Gallagher Risk Services, Inc.

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. He gave an overview of various insurance coverages included in the proposed annual renewal. He mentioned that there were a limited number of underwriters, which resulted in a significant increase in the cost of rail liability coverage but that they were still looking into other coverage options. The premium for the Huey P. Long Bridge (“Bridge”) policy remains flat and the Commission receives a cost share of over 95% from certain Class 1 railroads. The Commission also consolidates certain coverage categories with the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans (“Port”), including property, auto, cyber, crime, terrorism, and public officials insurance.

Commissioner Langenstein inquired as to whether the State of Louisiana shared in the cost of the premium for the Bridge insurance to cover the roadway. Mr. Wendel responded that the State does not contribute to the policy as this only covers the rail portions of the Bridge.

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

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into One or More Supplements to the Subordinate Revenue Pledge, Dated February 25, 2021, in Connection with the Port’s Upcoming \$30 Million Indenture to Pledge the Net Revenues to Secure Outstanding and Future Bonds.

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. He stated that this approval is for one or more supplements to the Subordinate Revenue Pledge in connection with the \$30 million JP Morgan loan, which was previously approved by the Board in January 2021.

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

D. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Coastal Contractors, LLC, in the Amount of \$165,000, to Repair a Girder on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. He indicated that a routine annual inspection of the Huey P. Long Bridge revealed that the girder between Pier D and Bent 1E had shifted. This contract covers the work necessary to shift and anchor

the girder back to its original position and perform other minor repairs to Bent 1E. This work will be performed by the contractor in conjunction with NOPB Roadway personnel.

The Commission obtained three (3) quotes for this work and Coastal Contractor, LLC (“Coastal”) submitted the lowest quote. The repair should be performed within sixty (60) calendar days and the funding is provided for in the Commission’s Capital Budget.

Commissioner Langenstein asked if Coastal had previously performed any work for the Commission and questioned the discrepancy among the quotes. Mr. Kocur responded that he was not aware of Coastal performing any prior work but noted that the company is renowned for performing work on bridges. He stated that Coastal’s quote was reviewed by Modjeski & Master, Inc., and was in alignment with the anticipated project costs.

Commissioner Hernandez asked if the work was going to cause any closures of the Bridge. Mr. Kocur responded that the work will require two (2) partial closures on each side and that the entire Bridge would be closed for approximately 10 hours.

Chairman Berger inquired as to what caused the girder to shift. Mr. Kocur responded that it shifted downhill because of the forces from trains breaking as they are descending the Bridge.

Commissioner Langenstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Hernandez seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. Report of the General Manager

Mr. Stolzman presented the report. He noted that although the local volumes slightly decreased in January, Class-1 volumes were stronger than anticipated. Volumes for both local and Class-I are forecasted to continue to increase in the next few months. As expected, the storage volumes decreased due to the end-of-year car releases but the volumes were still higher than budget expectations. Intermodal volumes remain consistent and are approaching the pre-pandemic numbers. Dwell numbers were strong at 11.2 hours. Engineering numbers have continued to exceed most goals despite weather and equipment supply challenges. The reorganization of the car shop has increased efficiency and productivity with an anticipated daily average of thirty-five (35) cars. Locomotive availability remains at 100% while maintenance costs are negligible. Mr. Stolzman also mentioned that the NOPB continued its safety streak as January was incident free.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Berger called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Langenstein so moved and Commissioner Ponstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Berger adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.