

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022**

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 7 JBE 2022, CONVENED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022 AT 2:41 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles H. Ponstein, Chairman
William H. Langenstein, III, Vice-Chairman
Joseph F. Toomy, Secretary-Treasurer
Darryl D. Berger, Member
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member
James J. Carter, Jr., Member

STAFF: B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer
M. Stolzman, General Manager
C. Kocur, Vice President, Engineering
J. Oldham, Vice President, Transportation
T. Banks, Manager, Engineering
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel
M. Scelson, General Counsel

GUESTS: M. Ganon, Port of New Orleans
R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans
T. Rives, Port of New Orleans
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans
M. Gresham, Port of New Orleans
E. Pansano, Port of New Orleans
B. McManus, Port of New Orleans
C. Gilmore, Port of New Orleans
J. Mansour, Port of New Orleans
C. Coats, Port of New Orleans
M. Verderame, Port of New Orleans
G. Brown, Port of New Orleans
C. Labat, Port of New Orleans
L. Mellem, Port of New Orleans
D. Cordell, Port of New Orleans
G. Palermo, Port of New Orleans
S. Gauthier, Port of New Orleans
G. Rose, Port of New Orleans
A. Coates, Port of New Orleans
J. Gommel, Port of New Orleans
G. Rose, Port of New Orleans
E. Federer, Port of New Orleans

D. Collins, Port of New Orleans
M. Cloos, Port of New Orleans
C. Alfonso, Port of New Orleans
J. Ragusa, Port of New Orleans
A. Lopez-Salazar, Port of New Orleans
A. Coates Port of New Orleans
C. Falgoust, Port of New Orleans
M. Sulser, Port of New Orleans
R. Bylsma, Port of New Orleans
M. Cloos, Port of New Orleans
A. Taylor, Port of New Orleans
K. Howells, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
P. Jackson, Port of New Orleans
Capt. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
Agraves
B. Applefeld
C. Sepulveda
C. Foreman
James
K. Price, New Orleans Terminal, LLC
K. Calkins, New Orleans Terminal LLC
L. Traweek
Nmahoney123
R. Chauvin
W. Roesch, ILA 2036

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call, Chairman Ponstein confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:41 p.m.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 2021

Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for December 2021, as previously circulated.

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

III. Public Comment

Chairman Ponstein asked Ms. Verderame to provide an overview of the Commission's process for submitting public comment. Chairman Ponstein called for any agenda-related or general public comments, but there were none. Ms. Verderame confirmed that no public comments were submitted in advance or via the Zoom Chat feature.

IV. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the Financial Statement for December 2021

Mr. Wendel presented the Commission's December 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 December 31, 2021. He reported that, thanks to strong switching and storage volumes, operating revenues this month were \$346,000 over the monthly budget and \$342,000 over the year-to-date projections. Payroll expenses remained in line with the budget but were slightly higher to accommodate increased business activity. Overall, the operating income was \$218,000 over budget this month and \$1.4 million higher than last year at this time.

Commissioner Carter moved to accept the financial statement and Commissioner Langenstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Belle Chasse Marine Transportation, LLC, for the As-Needed Purchase and Delivery of Lubricant Oil for a Period of One Year with Two One-Year Renewal Options, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$135,000 for the Full Contract Term.

Mr. Oldham presented and recommended approval of the resolution. He stated that this contract provides for the as-needed purchase and delivery of Mobil Diol 9 RD 20W40 lubricant oil. Belle Chasse Marine Transportation, LLC was the sole responsive bidder, and costs will be incurred on an as-needed basis according to the establish contract rates. The contract term is for a period of one (1) year, with two (2) one-year renewal options in an amount not to exceed \$45,000 per year, and not to exceed \$135,000 for the full contract. Funding is allocated in the Commission's Operational Budget.

Commissioner Langenstein asked if this is a contract and if there were other bids received. Mr. Oldham responded that Belle Chasse Marine Transportation, LLC was the sole bidder, and that this would be a new contract.

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

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Coastal Marine Contractors, L.L.C. in the Amount of \$374,500 to Perform Pier I & II Huey P. Long Bridge Fender Repairs.

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. The scope of work under this contract will include performing repairs to fenders located on Pier I and II of the Huey P. Long Bridge. Coastal Marine Contractors, L.L.C. was the lowest of three (3) bids received in response to an invitation to bid. Funding for this project is allocated in the Commission's Capital Budget, with approximately 50% of the cost reimbursable from the State and the remaining 50% is reimbursable through a Joint Maintenance Agreement with the other railroads.

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

V. Report of the General Manager

Mr. Stolzman presented the General Manager's Report. He reported a resurgence of all traffic, resulting in a 32% increase in local customer switching volume and an 8% increase in Class I switching volume. Overall traffic should remain strong in the following months.

Car storage volume was up, averaging 974 cars per day, and is expected to remain above 900 cars. Intermodal volumes were steady in December but the disparity between strong imports and weaker exports continued. Dwell time average was 12.6 hours in December and has been consistently controlled since the weeks following Hurricane Ida.

Railroad and bridge tie replacement productivity considerably increased in December as lumber supplies became more available. Track surfacing and tie mill productions were down in December due to supply challenges and a lower labor force during the holidays. A rebound is expected in January. Car shop repair volume was also down in December.

Commissioner Toomy inquired about the status of storage yard construction projects. Mr. Stolzman confirmed that the Kingfish Yard has been constructed and is in operation and the yard switch automation project is also complete. The France and Claiborne Yard expansion projects should start as soon as the permitting process is completed.

Chairman Ponstein inquired about the old locomotives and Mr. Stolzman responded that several of the older NOPB fleet locomotives are stored until sold.

Commissioner Langenstein inquired about the total storage capacity after completion of expansion projects. Mr. Stolzman responded that the capacity upon completion will be 1,500 cars, compared to the current capacity of 1,000 cars.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Toomy moved and Commissioner Langenstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Ponstein adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.