

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 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 80 JBE 2021, CONVENED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021 AT 2:16 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Charles H. Ponstein, Vice-Chairman

STAFF: B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer
M. Stolzman, General Manager
C. Kocur, Vice President, Engineering
J. Oldham, Vice President, Transportation & Mechanical
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel
M. Scelson, General Counsel
F. Hasbun, Manager, Administration

GUESTS: M. Ganon, Port of New Orleans
R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans
B. Landry, Port of New Orleans
T. Rives, Port of New Orleans
D. Cordell, Port of New Orleans
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans
M. Verderame, Port of New Orleans
C. Labat, Port of New Orleans
G. Palermo, Port of New Orleans
B. McManus, Port of New Orleans
M. Gresham, Port of New Orleans
J. Mansour, Port of New Orleans
S. Gauthier, Port of New Orleans
C. Gilmore, Port of New Orleans
M. Sulser, Port of New Orleans
R. Bylsma, Port of New Orleans
A. Coates, Port of New Orleans
L. Lofton, Port of New Orleans
C. Alfonso, Port of New Orleans
C. Falgoust, Port of New Orleans

A. Taylor, Port of New Orleans
J. Woodward, Port of New Orleans
M. Cloos, Port of New Orleans
A. Madere, Port of New Orleans
P. Jackson, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
P. Herring, Port of New Orleans
Chief R. Hecker, Harbor Police Department
Capt. M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
A. Baker, Commissioner Emeritus
H. Nichols
J. Keever
N. Junius
R. Chauvin
R. Graves
W. Evans

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Langenstein confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes for April 2021

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

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

III. Public Comment

Chairman Langenstein called for any 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 April 2021

Mr. Wendel presented the Commission's April 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 April 30, 2021. He noted that operating revenue and expenses exceeded budgeted projections, bringing the total operating income \$448,000 over the revised budget for the month and \$1.3 million over the year-to-date budget.

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

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Declaring the Passenger Cars “City of New Orleans” and “Louisiana,” and their Accessory Parts to be Surplus and Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Sell Said Surplus Property for Fair Market Value.

Mr. Stolzman presented and recommended approval of the resolution. He stated that both the “City of New Orleans” and the “Louisiana” (the “Passenger Cars”) were built in 1927 and restored by the Public Belt Railroad Commission for the City of New Orleans in 2008. Currently, the Passenger Cars are used occasionally for marketing purposes and other limited uses, which causes some disruption to NOPB’s primary transportation functions. Consequently, staff recommend the Passenger Cars, along with their collective accessory parts and furnishings, be declared surplus to NOPB’s operational needs, and that the Chief Executive Officer be authorized to sell said surplus items for fair market value.

Commissioner Toomy inquired about the process for interested parties to bid on the Passenger Cars, once declared surplus. Mr. Stolzman confirmed that potential buyers would be able to bid on each individual passenger car.

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

V. Report of the General Manager

Mr. Stolzman presented the report. He stated that all three (3) of NOPB’s revenue sources increased last month. Local and Class I volumes as well as railcar storage were at a record high for the past twelve (12) months and approaching pre-pandemic level. Thanks to the growing demand for petroleum products, Local and Class I traffic should continue to increase and the opening of Kingfish Yard should promote even stronger car storage volume. Intermodal container volumes were also at a record level and should remain on an upward trend. Dwell numbers have increased proportionality due to an increase in rail network traffic. NOPB’s capital project to upgrade Cotton Warehouse Yard’s automated switching system should be complete by the end of the month, and will constitute a significant step in modernizing operations and increasing the operational efficiency.

Mr. Stolzman noted ongoing lumber shortages continue to challenge productivity in connection with tie milling and replacement, but the network remains well-maintained. As supply chain issues are resolved, maintenance and engineering productivity will increase accordingly. Car repair volume was slightly down due to a week-long mechanical failure of the mobile car repair truck, but this issue has since been resolved. In sum, Mr. Stolzman noted that the NOPB is running smoothly and efficiently.

Chairman Langenstein inquired about a report of locomotive availability. Mr. Stolzman confirmed that since locomotive availability has consistently remained at 100% following the fulfillment of the leased locomotives, going forward he will only provide an availability report on an as-needed basis.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Langenstein called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Berger so moved and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Langenstein adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.