

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020**

**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 135 JBE 2020,
CONVENED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 22, 2020 AT 2:14 PM.**

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

STAFF: B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer
M. Stolzman, General Manager
C. Kocur, Vice President, Engineering
J. Oldham, Vice President Transportation
F. Hasbun, Office Manager
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
M. Verderame, 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
D. Cordell, Port of New Orleans
J. Sholar, Port of New Orleans
A. Coates, Port of New Orleans
J. Swartout, 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

E. Federer, Port of New Orleans
M. Cloos, Port of New Orleans
A. Madere, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
Capt. M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
K. Chinn, Port of New Orleans
T. Wells
J. Dunlop
H. Chien
M. Valenti
W. Wachel
L. Barback
K. Galloway
K. Price
B. Adams

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 2:14 p.m.

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes for September 2020

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

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

III. Action Items

A. Acceptance of the September Financial Statement

Mr. Wendel presented the September financial statement, providing an overview of the fiscal year to date revenues and expenses for the period ending September 30, 2020.

Commissioner Toomy moved to accept the consolidated financial statements and Commissioner Hernandez seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into Annual Agreements Providing for Employee Benefits for Health, Dental, Vision, Long-Term Disability, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and Life Insurance Coverage.

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. He provided an overview of current and proposed employee benefits for health, dental, long-term disability, accidental death and dismemberment, and life insurance coverages, as well as an overview of the different benefit coverages for which the Commission received

marketplace quotes. The recommended continuation of healthcare coverage with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana will be a cost increase of only 2.1% for the Commission, with a cost-share of 10% for employee-only coverage and 15% for family coverage. Dental and vision coverage through Principle Financial Services, Inc. will be renewed with no rate increases. The Hartford, Inc. is recommended to continue Life, AD&D and LTD coverages, with no effective rate changes. These benefits would be applicable to all non-union Commission employees, and the coverage period will commence on January 1, 2021.

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

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Lease Agreement with National Maintenance & Repair of Louisiana, Inc., for Property Located on the Westbank of Jefferson Parish.

Mr. Crist presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Since 2015, National Maintenance & Repair of Louisiana, Inc. (“Lessee”) has conducted barge mooring and fleeting operations. Located on the Westbank in Jefferson Parish, the leasehold includes 2,000 linear ft. of batture and mooring improvements. The new lease term would commence on November 1, 2020 for a period of five (5) years, with one (1) five-year renewal option. Mr. Crist provided an overview of the proposed updated lease rates and terms for the Commission, which will also serve to facilitate growth and efficiency of the Lessee’s operations.

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

IV. Report of the General Manager

Mr. Stolzman started his presentation by praising Commission staff for their ongoing commitment to ensuring operational efficiency and a focus on safety, highlighted by a year of no reportable safety incidents. Mr. Stolzman provided a summary of transportation operations, car shop operations, and storage and switching volumes. He noted that local switching volume has remained stable, and he anticipates a significant rebound in the next few months. Class I volumes have increased and should continue to move upward through the remainder of the year.

Mr. Stolzman stated that railcar storage volume has begun to stabilize, averaging 700 cars per day in September, and should continue to increase with the addition of new storage customers. September was the best month this year for intermodal container volume, while railroad dwell of 10.7-hours indicates that the rail network continues to operate efficiently.

Mr. Stolzman provided an overview of engineering productivity, noting that cross ties, track resurfacing and bridge tie replacements are far exceeding productivity goals. Car repair numbers have rebounded. With the full fleet of eight (8) newly leased locomotives now onsite, the Commission’s locomotive fleet availability reached 97.5% for September, and fuel consumption was down 40%.

Commissioner Langenstein and Chairman Berger inquired as to the status of the old locomotives. Mr. Stolzman responded that five (5) locomotives have already been sold, and ten (10) are currently listed for sale on a specialized public auction website. He added that the reseller locomotive market tends to move very rapidly.

Chairman Berger praised staff for ongoing excellence and continued exceptional results under difficult circumstances.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Berger called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Langenstein so moved and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Berger adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.