

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020**

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEW ORLEANS
PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD CORPORATION, PROPERLY NOTICED AND
AUTHORIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4 OF PROCLAMATION 30 JBE
2020 AND SECTION 2(C) OF PROCLAMATION 84 JBE 2020, CONVENED REMOTELY
VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AT 1:34 P.M. ON THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020.**

DIRECTORS

PRESENT:

Darryl D. Berger, Chairman
William H. Langenstein, III, Vice-Chairman
Charles H. Ponstein, Secretary-Treasurer
Tara C. Hernandez, Member
Arnold B. Baker, Member
Joseph T. Toomy, Member

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

M. Ganon, Port of New Orleans
A. Fant, Port of New Orleans
B. Landry, Port of New Orleans
R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans
C. Coats, 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
R. Bylsma, Port of New Orleans
M. Gresham, Port of New Orleans
D. Cordell, Port of New Orleans
J. Sholar, Port of New Orleans
P. Beard, Port of New Orleans
J. Mansour, Port of New Orleans
J. Ragusa, Port of New Orleans
T. Smith, Port of New Orleans
A. Taylor, Port of New Orleans
C. Nguyen, Port of New Orleans

J. Woodward, Port of New Orleans
M. Sulser, Port of New Orleans
E. Bordelon, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
Chief R. Hecker, Harbor Police Chief
Capt. M. Montroll, Harbor Police Captain
C. Falgoust, Port of New Orleans
S. Gautier, Port of New Orleans
E. Lonielloe, Port of New Orleans
J. Swartout, Port of New Orleans
W. Leger, Jr.
L. Traweek, *New Orleans City Business*
R. Desselles
Verena
Weresj
B. Adams
L. Jennings
D. Kearney
Jeremy

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 1:34 p.m.

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes for June 2020

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

Director Baker moved to approve the minutes and Director Ponstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. Action Items:

A. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Progress Rail Services Corporation to Provide for 290 Pieces of 80-foot 115-pound Rail in the Amount of \$333,210.

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. This contract is for the one-time purchase and delivery of 290 pieces of 80-foot 115-pound rail, to be used for construction of the Kingfish Storage Yard. NOPB issued an invitation to bid and received seven bids. Progress Rail Services Corporation was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Funds are allocated in NOPB's Capital Budget.

Mr. Ponstein asked which company was the next lowest bidder and Mr. Kocur informed him it was L.B. Foster Company with a bid of \$358,222.50.

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

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Declaring a Part of Parcel D in the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Industrial Site Subdivision to be Surplus Property and Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Agreement with St. Mary's Dominican High School Corporation or a Related Affiliate for the Purchase of the Property.

Ms. Scelson presented and recommended approval of the resolution. She noted that in June of 2019, the Board declared Lots 1-E-1-B and 1-F-1-A in the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Industrial Site Subdivision, located in Jefferson, Louisiana to be surplus, and further authorized the Chief Executive Officer to sell said property to St. Mary's Dominican High School Corporation for the price of \$2,300,000. The purchase price was based on an appraisal of the lots, which at the time were believed to be contiguous. During a title search conducted in connection with the purchase, however, it was discovered that the lots were actually bisected in part by a strip of land, which is part of Parcel D. Therefore, staff recommend approval of this resolution to resolve the title issue by declaring the property to be surplus to operational needs, and further authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to sell said property to St. Mary's Dominican High School Corporation or a related affiliate.

Director Baker moved to approve the resolution and Director Langenstein seconded.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Declaring the Passenger Car "City of Peru," its Accessory Parts, and Various Locomotive 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 provided an overview of the NOPB's ownership of the "City of Peru", noting it was originally purchased over 10 years ago with the intent of having it restored. Additionally, subsequent to the recently-executed locomotive lease agreement, the NOPB currently possess various locomotive parts that were formerly used to repair NOPB's former locomotive fleet. With no anticipated future need for these assets, staff recommend declaring all to be surplus to NOPB's operational needs, and authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to sell said property for fair market value.

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

Director Toomy joined the meeting at 1:46pm.

IV. Report by the General Manager

Mr. Stolzman provided a summary of transportation operations, car shop operations, and storage and switching volumes. He noted that, as a result of COVID-19, local switching volume has continued to slowly decline but has started to stabilize in July. Class I switching volumes have followed a similar trend.

Mr. Stolzman announced a significant increase in the railcar storage business during the month of June and July, with an average of 1,000 railcars per day. For intermodal, Mr. Stolzman noted the same static trend in decreased volumes, but is expecting an increase next month. Railroad dwell time continues to be positive, averaging 11-hours for June, and numbers in July are expected to be in the single digits.

Mr. Stolzman provided an overview of engineering productivity which has continued to exceed expectations in the month of June. On the mechanical side, bad order repairs have continued to increase. The average number of locomotives continues to climb as new leased locomotives are coming on line. There are currently four new locomotives in service and two in route to NOPB. The last two locomotives are being painting in St. Louis, Missouri and are anticipated in New Orleans in the next few weeks.

Ms. Christian praised the performance of the NOPB team, especially during the month of July, in maintaining the fluidity of the rail network.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Berger called for a motion to adjourn. Director Langenstein so moved and Director Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Berger adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.