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CADDO-BOSSIER PARISHES PORT COMMISSION
Regular Board Meeting
Regional Commerce Center, 3rd Floor Board Room
6000 Doug Attaway Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71115
August 12, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / OPENING REMARKS:** Commission President William “Bill” R. Altimus called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Board Room of the Regional Commerce Center, 6000 Doug Attaway Blvd., Shreveport, Louisiana and welcomed everyone.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice President Joshua K. Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. ROLL CALL:** The roll was called by Executive Port Director, Eric England. Commissioners in attendance included: William “Bill” R. Altimus, Joshua K. Williams, Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.), Walter O. Bigby, Jr., Erica R. Bryant, Sam N. Gregorio, James D. Hall, and Rick C. Prescott. Absent: Roy Griggs. A quorum was present.
- 4. PRESENTATION TO MR. GARLAND WELLS – 20 Years of Service:** Mr. England stated it was an honor to present Mr. Wells on his 20 years of service with the Port. Twenty years ago, was prior to the first large manufacturing tenant at the Port and before all the cargo was being moved through the Port. Mr. Wells started on the ground-floor of operations and has grown to the senior position on the operations team. Working side-by-side with the rest of the team, Mr. Wells is the “glue” that holds the operations team together. On behalf of the Commission, Mr. England thanked Mr. Wells for his service and stated it was an honor to work with Mr. Wells. After an extended round of applause, several photos were taken of the Commission members with Mr. Wells.
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Commissioner Altimus asked for any public comments on agenda items. Hearing none, Commissioner Altimus moved to the next agenda item.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 6. REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2024:** Commissioner Callaway presented the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 8, 2024. Motion by Commissioner Callaway, seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 8, 2024, as presented. Hearing no questions or comments, the motion was approved by the following votes: AYES: Commissioners: William “Bill” R. Altimus, Joshua K. Williams, Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.), Walter O. Bigby, Jr., Erica R. Bryant, Sam N. Gregorio, James D. Hall, and Rick C. Prescott. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: Roy Griggs. ABSTENTIONS: 0. (Published in its entirety in *The Times* on August 15, 2024.)
- 7. JUNE 2024 FINANCIALS:** Commissioner Callaway presented the financial report for June 2024. Motion by Commissioner Callaway, seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

MEMBERS: *Bill Altimus, President; Joshua K. Williams, Vice President; Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.), Secretary Treasurer; Walter O. Bigby Jr.; Erica R. Bryant; Sam N. Gregorio; Roy Griggs; James D. Hall; Rick C. Prescott*

the June 2024 Financial Report, as submitted. Hearing no questions, the motion was approved by the following votes: AYES: Commissioners: William “Bill” R. Altimus, Joshua K. Williams, Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.), Walter O. Bigby, Jr., Erica R. Bryant, Sam N. Gregorio, James D. Hall, and Rick C. Prescott. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: Roy Griggs. ABSTENTIONS: 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

8. DISCUSSION OF 2024 TAX MILLAGE RATE: Mr. England stated in 2016 the Port Commission renewed its property tax for 2.50 mils. In accordance with state law, every four years the tax assessors reassess the property taxes within each parish. 2024 is a reassessment year. Notifications have been received from the Caddo and Bossier assessors which show property values in each parish have increased. In order for the Port to continue to receive the same amount of revenue, the new adjusted millage rate is 2.34 mils. At the last reassessment in 2020, property values decreased and the Port Commission was authorized to collect 2.51 mils. It is required to roll back to the 2.34 mils with the option of rolling forward to the previous maximum authorized rate of 2.51 mils. There are notification requirements in order to roll forward the Port Commission’s authorized rate. However, the current September board meeting date does not fall within the 30-day notice requirements. It was proposed to have the public hearing at the October 14th board meeting in order to follow the notice requirements and adopt the required ordinances for the millage. Typically, the Port Commission rolls forward to levy the maximum amount allowed in order to receive the excess revenue. The additional revenue would be utilized to fund capital projects. It is recommended to roll forward to 2.50 mils, which is what the public approved in the 2016 election, instead of the maximum allowed of 2.51 mils. The capital projects to be funded with this additional revenue are located in the 2022 Master Plan for the 2,000 acres on the west side of Highway 1, which includes extension of the rail and utilities. Those capital projects total \$140 million and progress is being made on those projects. This increase in revenue would also increase our bonding capacity to accomplish these goals. In summary, rolling forward to 2.50 mils would provide the necessary funding for the infrastructure to fulfill the 2022 Master Plan requirements. No action is required today on this item, just discussion. Commissioner Bryant asked if the parish tax assessors had been notified of the October 14th meeting date in order for them to send out the tax notices in November. Mr. England noted that calls would be made to the assessors to confirm October 14th is within their timeline and if not, the plan would be adjusted for an earlier Board meeting to adopt the millage. Commissioner Altimus asked for a rough estimate on how much it would cost to get the Union Pacific rail access to the property on the west side of Highway 1. Director of Operations, Tyler Comeaux, responded it is estimated at \$20 million, which includes the additional siding tracks requested by Union Pacific to park rail cars to free up the mainline. Commissioner Altimus also asked for the estimated amount for the I-69 project. Mr. England noted the I-69 service road will cost approximately \$80 million. A brief side discussion on the importance of the I-69 project and its status commenced. Hearing no further discussion on the 2024 tax millage rate, Commissioner Altimus moved to the next item on the agenda.

9. PORT DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Mr. England provided an update on various activities and projects, including congratulating Commissioner Williams on his new position with the Caddo Sheriff’s office, the I-69 service road, the potential purchase of the 566-acre tract with an additional adjacent 300-acre tract, Heirloom Carbon, and the LSU Pecan Station easement.

10. ADJOURN: Hearing no other comments or questions to come from the Board, Commissioner Altimus entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Callaway made the motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Bigby seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen V. Callaway

Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.)
Secretary-Treasurer