



OCEAN HIGHWAY & PORT AUTHORITY

Robert Sturgess – Commissioner, District 1
Danny Fullwood – Chairman, District 2
Scott Hanna – Secretary/Treasurer, District 3
Carrol Franklin – Commissioner, District 4
Mike Cole – Vice Chairman, District 5

Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2020

The Ocean Highway and Port Authority of Nassau County held its Monthly Meeting on **Wednesday, August 12, 2020** at the **Fernandina Beach Golf Club, Bill Melton Road, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034.**

The meeting was called to order at **6:06 PM by Chairman Fullwood.**

The invocation was given and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Hanna. Roll call was conducted by Mrs. Barbara Amergian. Commissioners Fullwood, Hanna, Franklin, and Sturgess (via video conference) were in attendance. Commissioner Cole was absent. Also in attendance were Jeb Branham, Port Attorney; Pierre LaPorte, Port Accountant; and Chris Ragucci, Port Director/Operator.

Chairman Fullwood recognized City Commissioner Chip Ross, 210 North 3rd Street, Fernandina Beach, FL to speak to the Board during Public Comments. Mr. Ross presented an opinion article printed in the Fernandina Beach News Leader. Chris Ragucci, Port Operator, offered his objection to the article being read. Chairman Fullwood allowed Mr. Ross to proceed.

Commissioner Franklin made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 8, 2020 monthly meeting. Commissioner Hanna seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Items:

Two quotes were presented for replacing the Port of Fernandina sign.

Commissioner Hanna made the motion to accept the quote from Design It Wraps at \$470.80. The Board would like more specifics. Mrs. Amergian will request a mockup of the sign. The motion was approved 3-1 with Commissioner Franklin voting no.

Commissioner Franklin made the motion to authorized payment of \$1,878.87 to Carlos Alvarez, Mediator. Mr. Alvarez's fee was split evenly between OHPA and the City of Fernandina Beach. Commissioner Hanna seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Port Accountant Pierre LaPorte presented the July financials and V1. of the FY 20/21 Operating Budget. There was discussion regarding the amount of the donation to the Nassau County Economic Development Board. Mr. LaPorte reminded the Board that there was no longer

offsetting rent coming in for the Customs House which will create a \$10,922 deficit and allow for no money for maintenance.

Mr. LaPorte asked the Board if it was their desire to allow the line of credit in the amount of \$150,000 to remain at BB&T. The Board would like to leave the line of credit open for any emergencies that may arise.

Chairman Fullwood and Mr. Ragucci asked Mr. LaPorte to explain the "\$6.7 million deficit in 2019" that is being reported in the local papers. Mr. LaPorte explained that assets exceed liabilities by \$10,000,000 and the Port is owned free and clear by the citizen of Nassau County. Mr. Ragucci also offered that it is a financial reversing entry. This figure was taken from the Jacksonville Business Journal and it out of context.

Port Attorney Jeb Branham presented his report to the Board. Mr. Branham informed the Board that the City of Fernandina Beach has obtained outside council to bring suit against OHPA in regards to the PILOT payment.

Mr. Branham reported that he is still negotiating the terminology in regards to the Interlocal Agreement.

Mr. Branham informed the Board that TranSystems is proceeding with filing a law suit against OHPA for non-payment of invoices for work done at Worldwide Terminals. OHPA will need to respond by August 24, 2020. Mediation is not an option.

Commissioner Mike Cole joined the meeting at 6:57 via video conference.

Port Operator/Director Chris Ragucci presented the July tonnage report. He also reported on a list of accomplishments the Port has achieved over the past year.

New Business

Mr. Ragucci updated the Board on the status of grants open with FDOT.

Commissioner Hanna made the motion to authorize Chairman Fullwood to execute the MARAD FY 2019 America's Highway Grant in the amount of \$1,291,800. The motion was approved unanimously.

Due to continued COVID 19 protocols, there was nothing new to report on Committee Reports.

With nothing more to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.


Chairman Danny Fullwood