

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 Chair, District 5

Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2020

The Ocean Highway and Port Authority of Nassau County held its Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the James S. Page Building, Yulee, FL.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by Chairman Danny Fullwood.

The invocation was given and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Sturgess. Roll call was conducted by Ms. Barbara Amergian. All Commissioners were present. Also in attendance was Jeb Branham, Port Attorney; Pierre LaPorte, Port Accountant Chris Ragucci, Port Director/Port Operator.

Chairman Fullwood recognized Chip Ross, 210 N. 3rd Street, Fernandina Beach, FL for public comment. Mr. Ross asked the Board and Port Attorney for an update on the Interlocal Agreement and the channel re-alignment. Attorney Branham informed Mr. Ross that revisions were in the works. Mr. Ross also asked about the need for the Attorney General's opinion in regards to the PILOT payment mediation process. Attorney Branham informed him that he was seeking the AG's opinion as to whether there was an option to mediate the issue privately; he also informed Mr. Ross that the process would not be held up waiting for the AG's opinion.

Chairman Fullwood recognized Robert Gibbs of Dixie Towing LLC in Jacksonville. Mr. Gibbs introduced his company, Dixie Towing Service. He would like the Board to look into using his tug service which could offer the Port of Fernandina savings. He believes there is some conflict of interest in the current tug service being utilized. Chairman Fullwood requested a workshop be scheduled to discuss the issues and include Hardee Cavanaugh and Brian Seuter from the Harbor Pilots Association. Commissioner Sturgess also requested a letter from Mr. Gibbs, outlining what he would like the Board to do.

Commissioner Cole made the motion to accept the January 6, 2020 Special Meeting and the January 8, 2020 Monthly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hanna. The motion is approved unanimously with no discussion.

Port Accountant Pierre LaPorte presented the January 2020 financials to the Board. Mr. LaPorte reported that the Auditors have completed their fieldwork and draft financials will be presented in 4-6 weeks. Mr. LaPorte reminded the Commissioners that they can add comments to the Management Discussion Analysis. The Q1 reports will be redistributed at the March 19, 2020 meeting.

Port Attorney Jeb Branham presented his monthly report. He informed the Board that he and City Attorney Tammi Bach were unable to agree on a mediator. There is a mediator in Tallahassee, Carlos Alvarez, that is available in April. This will necessitate moving the

mediation deadline to May 15, 2020. Ms. Bach will ask the City of Fernandina Beach Commissioners to approve moving the deadline to May 15, 2020 at their next meeting.

Commissioner Hanna made the motion to extend the mediation deadline to May 15, 2020. Commissioner Cole seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Branham also reported that revisions to the Interlocal agreement have been forwarded to Commissioner Sturgess for review. The Nassau Tradeplex sign survey has been completed and Mr. Branham will be requesting a quit claim deed from the County - which will need to go before their Board for approval.

Port Operator Chris Ragucci represented the January, 2020 tonnage report. Mr. Ragucci also announced that he had received an email from Beau Corbett of the Army Corp of Engineers informing him that \$6,500,000 maintenance dredging in Fernandina Harbor. Congressman Rutherford was instrumental in securing these funds and should be formally thanked for his efforts. Harbor dredging will be scheduled to start in December 2020.

Mr. Ragucci reported that the berth dredging project was 75% complete and that two (2) bids have been received and are being evaluated for the on-dock warehouse capital improvement project. He also reported on the progress with the barge project and the MARAD grant.

Chairman Fullwood called a 5-minute recess at 7:22 PM. Meeting reconvened at 7:27 PM.

Unfinished Business

Commissioner Hanna made the motion to approve the dedication plaque for Commissioner Ronald Braddock at the cost of \$412. Commissioner Cole seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the monies due from Worldwide Terminals to the Ocean Highway and Port Authority. Mr. Ragucci informed the Board that John Morales was working on securing a short-term credit facility to help get caught up on past due payments and that Mr. Ragucci anticipates making two quarterly payments next month.

The March 2020 monthly meeting will need to be moved to either an alternate location or an alternate date. Ms. Amergian will explore the options and report back to the Commissioners by February 14, 2020.

New Business

Customs House Lease and Deficiencies report - Attorney Branham gave an update on the lease and what needs to be done to bring the building up to spec; there also was discussion about building a new customs house that will be needed by 2024. The signing of the lease will be tabled until the March 19, 2020 meeting. A meeting with Commissioner Franklin, Jeb Branham, Steve Driskell, and the Steve Parrott will be held prior to April 19, 2020.

Commissioner Franklin made the motion to approve Resolution 2020-R02. A RESOLUTION OF THE OCEAN HIGHWAY AND PORT AUTHORITY OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SECURITY LIGHTING, UPGRADES AT GUARD GATES, AND BOUNDARY FENCING; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Hanna seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2020-R-03, PTGA Master Plan Grant, and Agreement with TranSystems for the Master Plan were all tabled until the March 19, 2020 meeting.

Committee Reports:

Port Security - Commissioner Fullwood - nothing new to report

Customs House - Commissioner Franklin - Nothing new to report beyond the lease and deficiencies discussion.

- Army Corp of Engineers - Commissioner Sturgess - nothing new to report
- Economic Development - Commissioner Cole reported that Sherri Mitchell is still serving as interim Director.
- Emergency Management - Commissioner Franklin will be attending the February 20th meeting.
- Technical Coordinating Committee - Commissioner Hanna did not attend the last meeting.
- TPO-Commissioner Cole- There was no meeting held in January.
- Nassau Chamber East Side - Commissioner Sturgess reminded the Board about the Candidate Bootcamp.

Nassau Chamber West Side - Commissioner Cole- nothing new to report

The Administrative Office Manager's report was presented.

Other Items to come before the Board: Chairman Fullwood presented the Board with three (3) new logo options and invited discussion at the next Board meeting.

With no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

 _____

Danny Fullwood, Chairman