

## 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  
January 8, 2020

The Ocean Highway and Port Authority of Nassau County held its Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the FSCJ Campus - Nassau Center, 76346 William Burgess Boulevard, Yulee, Florida 32097

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman Danny Fullwood.

The invocation was given and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Cole. 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Port Attorney Branham informed Mr. Ross that the Interlocal Agreement is currently under review and will be ready by the end of the week,

**Commissioner Franklin made the motion to accept the December 11, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hanna. The motion is approved unanimously with no discussion.**

Port Accountant Pierre LaPorte presented the December 2019 financials to the Board. He reminded the Board of the field audit with Mauldin & Jenkins in January 2020 and for any Board Member to be in touch with him if they would like to meet with the auditors during their field audit. First Quarter Financials will be available at the February 2020 meeting and the agenda item regarding monies owed from Worldwide Terminals was tabled until the February 12, 2020 meeting.

Port Attorney Jeb Branham presented his monthly report to the Board. He reported on the Conflict Assessment Meeting that was held on January 7, 2020 with the City Attorney and City Manager. Both the City and OHPA identified the issues in dispute and were unable to mutually agree on a resolution. As a result, there is a public joint meeting with the City Commissioners and the Ocean Highway and Port Authority Commissioners to be scheduled, the tentative date is January 27, 2020 in the City Commissioner Chambers

Port Operator Chris Ragucci represented the December, 2019 tonnage report. Tonnage is up from the previous month. Mr. Ragucci projected that January 2020 looks promising with more shipments and a new carrier of paper and lumber. A shipment of oats was also on the schedule to be delivered in late January. The berth dredging project is 75% complete.

### Unfinished Business

A survey and legal description of the Nassau Tradeplex sign will be needed for the quitclaim deed to be issued from the County. Ms. Amergian will source two surveyors for estimates.



Commissioner Sturgess will investigate the value of the sign as it pertains to the businesses in the Tradeplex adding their business names to the placard.

**Chairman Fullwood made the motion to move forward with the 24" x 24" dedication plaque for the Customs House to honor Commissioner Ronnie Braddock. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cole. Motion passed unanimously.** Ms. Amergian will check with the Historic District Commission and the City Planner to see if that size is acceptable and whether a sign permit will be necessary.

In other items to come before the Commission:

Mr. Ragucci presented two invoices for spare parts for the Liebherr crane. There is one quote that needs to be fulfilled. These invoices will be submitted to FDOT for reimbursement on the balance of the crane monies which is \$70,000.

**Commissioner Hanna made the motion to approve the invoices for reimbursement. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports:

- Port Security – Commissioner Fullwood – nothing new to report
- Customs House – Commissioner Franklin – A reminder from Commissioner Franklin that the rent payments on the Customs House ends 4/20/2020. Options to cover expenses were discussed. Commissioner Franklin, Pierre LaPorte, Jeb Branham, and Chris Ragucci will meet to discuss viable options. Attorney Branham reminded the Board that there is a time frame of three (3) years to provide the Customs Agents with a new facility.
- Army Corp of Engineers – Commissioner Sturgess – currently waiting for the Interlocal Agreement.
- Economic Development – Commissioner Fullwood – nothing new to report
- Emergency Management – Commissioner Franklin – nothing new to report
- Technical Coordinating Committee – Commissioner Hanna – nothing new to report
- TPO – Commissioner Cole – nothing new to report
- Nassau Chamber East Side – Commissioner Sturgess attended the public official recognition meeting.
- Nassau Chamber West Side – Commissioner Cole- nothing new to report