

Ocean Highway & Port Authority

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

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2019

The Ocean Highway and Port Authority of Nassau County held its Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 the County Commissioners Chambers at the James S. Page Government Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Sturgess.

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; Laura DiBella, Port Director; Pierre LaPorte, Port Accountant; and Chris Ragucci, Port Operator.

Minutes of the August 14, 2019 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

The Board approved the 2020 Contract with Mauldin & Jenkins for the annual audit by unanimous consent.

Pierre LaPorte, Port Accountant, presented the August 2019 financial report; miscellaneous income was received from Blue Lynx in the amount of \$920. A second principal and interest crane loan payment has been made from the operating account. The second reimbursement to FDOT has been submitted, just waiting for the funds to be processed and paid.

Jeb Branham, Port Attorney, presented his report to the Board. The PILOT payment motion passed at the August 2019 has been communicated to Tammi Bach, City of Fernandina City Attorney. Ms. Bach proposed that OHPA pay the 2019 PILOT payment to allow more time to do legal analysis. The Board stands behind the motion passed last month in regards to the PILOT payment. Chairman Sturgess recognized City Commissioner Chip Ross. Mr. Ross informed the Board that Ms. Bach informed the City Commissioners of her proposal to OHPA and that the City is still expecting a 2019 payment.

Laura DiBella, Port Director, presented her report to the Board. Ms. DiBella informed the Commissioners that she had met with the TPO and they were very supportive of the Barge application and may have funding opportunities. She is also expecting letters of support for the MARAD grant application. She gave a status update on the crane: \$1,923,698.39 (not including interest) has been spent thus far on the Liebherr crane. The balance of \$76,301.61 need to be re-allocated. FSTED: \$668,000 in funding for FY 19-20 monies are available immediately but matches are involved. \$550,000 allocated to the warehouse project and \$118,000 to the Port Master Plan project. FSTED monies are directly tied to revenues of the Port. Ms. DiBella is setting up a meeting with representatives of Kings Bay who would like to partner with the Port on projects. She reported that there has been extensive industrial activity in the county. The next Economic Development meeting is September 24th at Wildlight. Ms. DiBella also added

that Seaport Security Funds have been applied for and she is waiting for the final amount to be determined; this is in addition to the \$155,000 already received last year.

Chairman Sturgess recognized Chris Ragucci, Port Director. Mr. Ragucci asked Rick Ferrin of TranSystems to give an update on the dredging, wharf repairs, and warehouse projects. There was one proposal from a local dredger for the berth dredging. The posting for interest in submitting proposals for the wharf repairs is currently on the website. The development of Warehouse #1 design criteria package is currently underway. Robert Mariner of TranSystems gave an update on the MARAD grant application. The application deadline is September 27th and a draft will be reviewed by Ms. DiBella and Mr. Ragucci. Mr. Ragucci presented the tonnage report for August 2019. He reported that the overall tonnage is back up to 11,800 tons after a slow month in August. A Scope of Work is being put together for the lighting project at the Port.

A Special Meeting will be held on September 25, 2019 at 1 PM to approve the contract for berth dredging. The location will be confirmed.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. LaPorte reviewed the 2019-2020 Budget by line item. There was discussion involving the termite bonds.

Commissioner Fullwood made the motion to adopt the 2019-2020 Budget as presented. OCEAN HIGHWAY AND PORT AUTHORITY, NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA RESOLUTION NO. 2019-R11. A RESOLUTION OF THE OCEAN HIGHWAY AND PORT AUTHORITY OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING ITS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-20; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioners Cole, Franklin, Fullwood, and Sturgess approved. Commissioner Hanna opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. Lynn Williams, Commissioner with the Florida Inland Navigation, was recognized and spoke about the need for the Channel re-alignment and the request from the City of Fernandina Beach to OHPA for a letter of support to the Army Corp of Engineers. Port Attorney Jeb Branham gave the Board a synopsis on the timeline of the channel re-alignment issue. OHPA is being asked to be a sponsor of the re-alignment project, but OHPA's permission is not needed to proceed. Rick Ferrin, of TranSystems, spoke on the matter also. His concern was that who will pay for and maintain the channel once the re-alignment has been completed. Chairman Sturgess would like to proceed with a getting a clear handle on what is needed from OHPA and then get in touch with Rayonier Advance Materials and have someone from the City attend an OHPA meeting to answer questions. **By unanimous consent by the Commissioners, Jeb Branham was instructed to proceed with reviewing the channel re-alignment request from the City of Fernandina Beach.**

New Business:

Ms. DiBella reported to the Board that she had responded to County Manager Mike Mullin in regards to the letter sent to the Board on Port Traffic. Ms. DiBella will continue to monitor the situation.

Committee Reports:

Port Security – Commissioner Fullwood – Nothing to report this month.

Customs House – Commissioner Franklin – Nothing new to report this month

Economic Development – Commissioner Fullwood – Nothing to add to Ms. DiBella's report.

Emergency Management – Commissioner Franklin – There was hurricane preparation this month.

Technical Coordinating Committee – Commissioner Hanna – The meeting was cancelled this month.

TPO – Commissioner Cole – He will be attending the meeting scheduled for September 12, 2019.

Nassau Chamber East Side – Commissioner Sturgess – Nothing to report this month.

Nassau County West Side – Commissioner Cole – Nothing to report this month.

The Administrative Office Manager's report was included in the meeting packet.

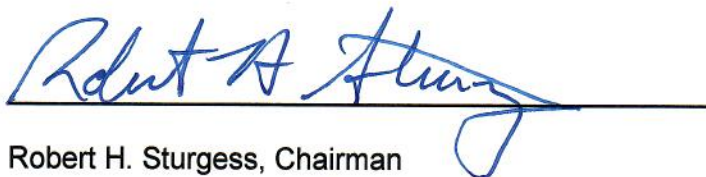
Other issue to be brought to before the Commissioners:

Commissioner Fullwood asked Mr. LaPorte if there was money available now to purchase the five (5) tablets for the Commissioners use. Mr. LaPorte reported that there is money available in the FY 2019 budget for make the purchase.

Chairman Sturgess recognized Hardee Cavanaugh in regards to the channel re-alignment issue. Mr. Cavanaugh added that he doesn't think the City of Fernandina Beach understands that as the permit requester that the City would be responsible for any future maintenance costs.

Mr. Ragucci informed the Board that at the berths, currently at the Port, there are four pieces of equipment for West Rock. The equipment will be moved to West Rock later this week on Dade Street.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.



Robert H. Sturgess, Chairman