

OCEAN HIGHWAY & PORT AUTHORITY

Miriam R. Hill–Secretary/Treasurer-Commissioner, District 1
Danny Fullwood–Chairman, District 2
Scott Hanna–District 3
Carrol Franklin–Commissioner, District 4
Mike Cole–Vice Chairman, District 5

Special Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2021

The Ocean Highway and Port Authority of Nassau County held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at the County Commissioners Chambers at the James S. Page Government Complex, 96153 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida 32097.

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM by Chairman Fullwood. The invocation was given and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Miriam Hill. Roll call was conducted by Mrs. Barbara Amergian. All Commissioners were present. Also in attendance were Robert Sturgess, Interim Port Attorney; Pierre LaPorte, Port Accountant; and Chris Ragucci, Port Director/Operator.

Chairman Fullwood asked the Board for their advice on what they felt what would be the best process for interviewing the candidates for the Administrative Office Manager position. There were 15 candidates who submitted resumes. Interviews will be held at Courson & Stam on Monday, March 8, 2021 between 3:00 and 5:00 PM. Mrs. Amergian will invite all 15 candidates to be interviewed on Monday, 3/8/21.

Chairman Fullwood told the Board that there were some potential options to offer the Administrative Office Manager health insurance. Port Accountant Pierre LaPorte reviewed with the Board the option of putting the AOM on the health plan at Courson & Stam, which is \$750 per month with an employee portion being half of that cost. OHPA would be responsible for covering the other half. There are also companies that offer health insurance for individuals.

Two resumes were received for the Port Attorney position – Patrick Krechowski and Robert Sturgess. The interviews for both attorneys will be held during the regular monthly meeting on March 10, 2021. Chairman Fullwood asked everyone to formulate a list of questions based on the needs of the Port Authority. Commissioner Hill told the Board that she had also sent the advertisement to Jax Bar Association for posting on their Facebook page. Judge Fahlgren also circulated the advertisement. There was no response from these efforts. Chairman Fullwood asked Mrs. Amergian to contact Patrick Krechowski to be sure he would be in attendance at the regular monthly meeting on March 10, 2021.

Chairman Fullwood discussed the option of hiring a business development director who can solicit business for the Ocean Highway & Port Authority through economic development instead of a Port Director, who will work only for the Port of Fernandina. Commissioner Hill distributed information regarding the fiduciary obligation of the Port Authority. Commissioner Hill asked for clarification on the structure of the potential position – the “CAO” would report to the Board and under that would be the Port and the economic development functions of the Port Authority. Chairman Fullwood agreed that was correct.

There was discussion on the Charter Section 5. Chairman Fullwood and Commissioner Hill have a different interpretation of this section. There needs to be clarification on what dockage and wharfage fees are.

Chairman Fullwood commended Interim Port Attorney Sturgess on representing the OHPA at the motion to dismiss with the City of Fernandina. Chairman Fullwood asked him to inform the Board. Commissioner Hill called a Point of Order on discussing an issue that was not included on the special meeting agenda. Interim Port Attorney Sturgess pointed out the information he was about the share with the Commissioners was of public record. Mr. Sturgess informed the Board the motion to dismiss with regard to the PILOT payment with the City of Fernandina has been granted without prejudice. The City of Fernandina Beach has 30 days to amend the complaint and OHPA will have 30 days to respond.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:14 PM.



Danny Fullwood, Chairman