

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023**

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**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR AUDITORIUM AT ITS OFFICES LOCATED AT 1350 PORT OF NEW ORLEANS PLACE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN JACK C. JENSEN, JR. AT 2:16 P.M.**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jack. C. Jensen, Jr. Chairman  
Joseph F. Toomy, Vice-Chairman  
William H. Langenstein, III, Member  
Charles H. Ponstein, Member  
Sharonda. R. Williams, Member  
James J. Carter, Jr., Member

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Walter J. Leger, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

**STAFF:** B. Christian, President & Chief Executive Officer  
R. Wendel, Chief Financial Officer  
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel  
L. Mellem, Chief of Staff  
M. Stolzman, Chief Operating Officer  
A. Evett, Chief of Infrastructure  
G. Brown, Chief of People & Culture  
C. Gilmore, Director Engineering  
R. Aragon Dolese, Director, Marketing & Communications  
C. Labat, Director, Procurement  
M. Scelson, General Counsel  
S. Gauthier, Director, Cruise  
A. Coates, Director, Trade & Economic Development  
A. Lopez-Salazar, Manager, Commercial  
K. Mills, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement  
K. Curth, Press Secretary  
J. Ragusa-Nunes, Deputy-Director, Governmental Affairs  
C. Gibson, Manager, Business Development  
J. Bruner, Manager, Cruise  
M. Sulser, Manager, Engineering  
E. Gondek, Manager, Terminal Operations  
M. Cloos, Manager Geographic Information Systems  
P. Beard, Manager, Real Estate  
A. Taylor, Procurement  
K. Howells, Procurement  
M. Singley, Board Secretariat

J. Fields, Executive Assistant, Communications  
A. Johnson, Executive Assistant  
E. Beiser, Intern, Legal Department

**GUESTS:**

T. Bryant, NOPB  
I. McPherson, NOPB  
C. Kocur, NOPB  
L. Hensley, NOPB  
G. Harris, NOPB  
J. Mackie, NOPB  
J. Stuckey, Phelps Dunbar  
D. Patron, Phelps Dunbar  
P. Sloss, MRSG&T  
K. Calkins, New Orleans Terminal, LLC  
D. Hauser, Coastal Cargo  
M. Galjour, Coastal Cargo  
K. Palmisano, Ports America Inc.  
D. Magee, Sr., ILA Local 3000

**I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum**

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Jensen confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Jensen asked Vice-Chairman Toomy to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Christian starting her report by honoring the memory of former Board Commissioner, Bob Tucker. Commissioner Carter and Chairman Jensen also joined in celebrating Mr. Tucker's life and achievements. Afterwards, Ms. Christian gave an overview of the February volumes and reported on the recent Procurement fair and the three open houses held in St. Bernard Parish. She concluded her report by congratulating Maggie Cloos, recipient of an award for special achievement in geographic information systems from the Environmental Systems Research Institute.

**IV. Public Comment**

Chairman Jensen asked for any agenda-related or general public comments, but there were none.

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 2023**

Chairman Jensen called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for February 2023, as previously circulated.

Commissioner Ponstein moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VI. Action Items:**

**A. Appointment of a Temporary Secretary in Accordance with the Board's Bylaws Art. VII (iv).**

Chairman Jensen stated that, in the absence of Secretary-Treasurer Leger, a temporary Secretary must be appointed to certify the actions taken during today's meeting, and he appointed Commissioner Carter to temporarily assume the Secretary's duties.

**B. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for February 2023**

Mr. Wendel presented the consolidated financial statements for the month of February, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Toomy moved to accept the consolidated financial statements and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Conversion of the Interest Rate on \$28,510,000 of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans Port Facility Refunding Revenue Bonds Series 2020B to a Tax-Exempt Rate; and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith.**

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Langenstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ponstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Renew the Board's Property and Casualty Insurance Policies for Primary and Excess Property, Boiler and Machinery/Equipment Breakdown, Primary and Excess Liability Insurance, Hull and Machinery and P&I Insurance, Vessel Pollution Liability Insurance, Public Official's Liability Insurance, Law Enforcement Liability Insurance, Government Crime Insurance, Cyber Insurance and Business Automobile Liability Insurance at a Not-to-Exceed cost of \$8,733,850, all Arranged Through Arthur J Gallagher Risk Services, Inc.**

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Carter moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**E. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Boh Bros. Construction Co., L.L.C. in the Amount of \$444,000 for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal St. Claude Avenue Bridge Replacement of Operating Strut Rollers.**

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including questions from Chairman Jensen, and Commissioners Ponstein and Langenstein on the duration of the replacement project and its impact on road closures, Commissioner Ponstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Langenstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**F. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the State of Louisiana in Connection with all Matters Pertaining to the St. Bernard Transportation Corridor Project.**

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Ponstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**G. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Amendment to the Lease with Sea Brook Marine, L.L.C. for the Property Located at 5801 France Road, New Orleans, Louisiana.**

Mr. Beard presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including a question from Commissioner Ponstein on the size of the leased property and from Chairman Jensen on the Small Business Administration loans process, Commissioner Langenstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**H. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Three-Year Software Licensing Agreement with CDW Government Inc., in the Amount of \$141,199.50, for the Annual Renewals of Druva Phoenix Backup Software Services.**

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including a question from Chairman Jensen on the inclusion of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission for the Port of New Orleans in this contract, Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**I. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Three-Year Software Licensing Agreement with CDW Government Inc., in the Amount of \$261,586.26, for the Annual Renewals of Druva Sync Backup Software Services.**

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- J. Consider Approval of a Resolution Ratifying the Action Taken by the President and Chief Executive Officer to Contract with New Orleans Public Facility Management, Inc. to Utilize the Convention Center’s H1 and H2 Lots for Overflow Cruise Parking for a Total Combined Cost Not to Exceed \$164,000.**

Mr. Gauthier presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including questions from Chairman Jensen, Commissioner Ponstein and Vice-Chairman Toomy on the cause of the parking demand increase, the security measures implemented on the lots, and the alternative parking and transportation options from and to the garages, Commissioner Ponstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- K. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Contract with the New Orleans Public Facility Management, Inc. to Utilize the Convention Center’s Property for Overflow Parking on an As-Needed Basis, for a One-Year Period, for an Amount Not to Exceed \$300,000.**

Mr. Gauthier presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- L. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Lease Amendment with Ports America Louisiana, L.L.C., to Adjust the Lease Premises to Include Louisiana Avenue Wharf.**

Mr. Wendell presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including questions from Vice-Chairman Toomy and Commissioner Langenstein on the Lessee’s initial Capital Investment and subsequent maintenance and repair requirements, Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- M. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Settlement Agreement in the Matter of: *Damages to the Julia Street Cruise Terminal.***

Mr. Escudier presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including questions from Commissioner Langenstein and Chairman Jensen on the drainage system and the status of the repairs, Commissioner Langenstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ponstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **VII. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Jensen opened the floor for Commissioners' comments. Vice-Chairman Toomy and Chairman Jensen reported on the meeting they attended in the morning at the Transportation Center, regarding the Tchoupitoulas Corridor project.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Jensen called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Carter so moved and Commissioner Langenstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Jensen adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.