

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

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 JOSEPH F. TOOMY, JR. AT 11:00 A.M.

MEMBERS

Joseph F. Toomy, Chairman

PRESENT:

Walter J. Leger, Jr., Vice-Chairman

James J. Carter, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

Sharonda R. Williams, Member

Jeanne E. Ferrer, Member

Darryl D. Berger, Member

Todd P. Murphy, Member

STAFF:

B. Christian, President & Chief Executive Officer

R. Wendel, Chief Financial Officer

J. Escudier, Executive Counsel

L. Mellem, Chief of Staff

A. Evett, Chief of Infrastructure

R. Aragon Dolese, Director, Marketing & Communications

G. Brown, Chief of People & Culture

M. Scelson, General Counsel

T. Black, Staff Attorney

K. Gilmore, Director, Real Estate

S. Gauthier, Director, Cruise

Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department

A. Ferrand-Rodgers, Director Organizational Development

C. Labat, Director, Procurement

A. Lopez-Salazar, Manager, Commercial

J. Volion, Accounting

L. Lofton, Manager, Internal Audit

P. Herring, Manager Internal Audit

C. Rollins, Director, Financial Reporting & Forecasting

L. Sawatsky, Director, Accounting

S. Abu Naser, Manager, Accounting

M. Torres, Accounting

K. Smith, Accounting

S. Acheson, Accounting

A. Brandenburg, Manager Accounting

R. Ricks, Accounting

J. Donald, Accounting

P. Scott, Accounting

D. Serio, Manager, Real Estate

A. Taylor, Procurement

J. Ragusa-Nunes, Deputy Director, Governmental Affairs
K. Curth, Press Secretary
K. Mills, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement
A. Randolph, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement
M. Singley, Board Secretariat
A. Johnson, Executive Assistant
J. Fields, Executive Assistant Communications

GUESTS: T. Bryant, NOPB
C. Kocur, NOPB
G. Harris, NOPB
L. Hensley, NOPB
I. McPherson, NOPB
F. McCormack, Waterways Journal
T. Carter, WBEC South
C. Ponstein, Former Commissioner
R. Dow, Empire Stevedoring
J. Welton, St. Bernard Voice

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Toomy confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:00a.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Toomy recognized former Commissioner Ponstein in the audience and asked Commissioner Murphy to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Christian gave an update on the low river levels monitoring. Afterwards, she provided an overview of the August 2023 volumes and reported on the FEMA Port Security Grant award, the continued partnership with the St. Louis Regional Freightway and the Procurement event held earlier this month. She concluded her report by recognizing and congratulating Mr. Larry Sawatsky, Director of Accounting, for his upcoming retirement, and Commissioner Carter for his appointment as Vice President of the National Bar Association.

IV. Public Comment

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

V. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for August 2023

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

Commissioner Carter moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Murphy seconded.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for August 2023

Mr. Wendel recognized Mr. Sawatsky's accomplishments and presented the consolidated financial statements for the month of August, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Leger moved to accept the consolidated financial statements and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a One-Year Contract with United Healthcare Insurance Companies to Provide a Medicare Advantage Plan to the Board's Retirees.

Ms. Brown presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Berger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to RYCARS Construction, LLC in the Amount of \$392,795 for Repairs to the Sheds Damaged by Hurricane Ida at the Louisiana Avenue, Harmony Street, and Seventh Street Wharves.

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including a question from Chairman Toomy on the current status of hurricane related repair projects, Commissioner Carter moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to D & D Construction LA, LLC in the Amount of \$2,248,000 for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Almonaster Avenue Bridge Dolphin and Fender Repairs.

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including a question from Chairman Toomy on potential traffic disruptions, Commissioner Berger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- E. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Agreement with the Department of the Army for the Port of New Orleans Access Channel Deepening Project in an Amount Not to Exceed \$3,425,100.**

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- F. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for the Engineering, Design, Construction, Maintenance, and Relocation of Louisiana Highway 46 (East St. Bernard Highway).**

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion including a question from Chairman Toomy on the timing of the process and a comment from Commissioner Leger emphasizing the consequential influence of the St. Bernard community's input in this relocation project, Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- G. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with Boh Bros. Construction Co., L.L.C. to Provide Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Services for the Jourdan Road Terminal Wharf Substructure Repair Project to Increase the Construction Phase Cost by a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$3,200,000.**

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion including a question from Chairman Toomy on the possibility of another amendment in order to complete the project, Commissioner Berger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- H. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with Gulf Engineers & Consultants, Inc. for Environmental Consulting Services in Support of Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) Planning and Permitting to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Cost by \$750,000.**

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion including a question from Chairman Toomy on the reason of the price increase, Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- I. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to Provide Final Design Services for the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) Wharf and Ramps Project; Increase the Not-to-Exceed Cost by \$4,977,246; and Extend the Contract Time to July 2025.**

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion including a comment from Chairman Toomy on the impact of the community's input in the design of the terminal project, Commissioner Berger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- J. Consider Approval of a Resolution Ratifying the Action Taken by the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) on the Lower St. Bernard/ Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) Roadway Network and Resilience Study with a Board Contribution in the Amount of \$180,000, and Authorizing the Amendment of the Board's Contribution to the Amount of \$289,817.51.**

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Toomy announced the dates of the upcoming Gretna Festival and reported on his meeting with the Board's independent fiscal auditor. He also reported that the Louisiana International Terminal project received unanimous congressional support during the recent trip to Washington with the Jefferson Chamber. Commissioner Leger corroborated this statement and praised Chairman Toomy for his efforts to communicate with other port leaders. Chairman Toomy responded that he will continue to work to that effect.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Toomy called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Leger so moved and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Toomy adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.