

Special Meeting Agenda  
AGENDA  
April 24, 2007 at 11:00 am

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider approving the Fixed Base Operator Request for Proposals
- V. Any Other Business
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Adjournment

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION  
April 24, 2007

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in special session on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 11:00AM.

President Griffin called the meeting to order and Commissioner Lafont called roll.

ATTENDED: Chuckie Cheramie, Perry Gisclair, Jimmy Lafont, Donald Vizier, Larry Griffin, John Melancon, Jimmy Guidry, and Ervin Bruce

ABSENT: Wilbert Collins

President Griffin presented for the board's approval the Fixed Based Operator proposals. Mr. Rome stated that there were 4 proposals received on Friday to lease the fixed base operations at the airport. He presented a summary of what they handed in along with an evaluation. He stated that based on the analysis of the four, VIH Helicopters was the best proposal received for the FBO. The proposal included the lease of the office building, hangar, property, parking spaces, fuel farm and 19 spots on the tarmac for them to lease to the public. They will also have a 5 cent fuel flowage fee for every gallon sold. There were minimum pricing standards to meet to get a return on our investment, which 2 proposals exceeded the minimums, 1 did not, and the other didn't comply with the requirements. This will be for a 3 year lease with minimum lease payments of \$132,717.55. VIH's proposal included a 3 year lease of \$196,572.02. He is pleased with the bids and based on the expertise that VIH has been operating at the airport, there proposal is very solid on what they can accomplish for us. Bids are in hand if the board has any questions. Commissioner Melancon made a motion to approve the proposal by VIH which was second by Donald Vizier, and the floor was open for discussion. Director Falgout entered the meeting.

Commissioner Melancon questioned if they run the airport would they also maintain the equipment for fuel, which Mr. Rome stated that the fuel truck is something that we chose to use and the FBO will have the choice to use fuel trucks or service out of the fixed tanks. VIH said they will have 2 trucks there that they will maintain. Commissioner Melancon questioned the buildings, which Mr. Rome stated that we would be responsible for all the fixed structures such as the walls, roof, and flooring. The runway, communications equipment, and lighting are still ours to maintain. Commissioner Gisclair questioned if they are required to make any improvements to the airport buildings, which Mr. Rome replied that since the lease is only for 3 years it is not likely that they will make any capital improvements. Mr. Rome stated that the FBO is considered a lessee and any new companies wanting to locate at the airport still have to negotiate leases with the Port Commission. Commissioner Vizier questioned the criteria of the minimum rent, which Mr. Rome stated that only 2 qualified and exceeded the minimum. Commissioner Lafont questioned what the Port is saving by having a FBO at the airport, which Director Falgout stated that will not have our personnel pump fuel, tie aircrafts down, and we will save the rental of the fuel truck. The FBO will provide services for fuel on his site. The others don't have to buy fuel from the FBO but they can. He stated that if we are satisfied with the FBO in the future the lease can be extended and if not the lease can be terminated. Commissioner Lafont questioned if everyone received the same proposal, which Mr. Rome replied that they did. He stated that VIH has a FBO in Nova Scotia and is familiar with the operations. Commissioner Guidry stated that VIH will not be over our maintenance workers at the airport, which Director Falgout responded that they will be required to maintain only their property area.

Mr. Rome stated that VIH is expected to sign their 15 acre lease by next month and this position of the FBO is not affecting their growth at the airport. Commissioner Vizier questioned the fuel tanks, which Director Falgout stated that any company can put a fuel tank on their property. The Port

Commission must be notified and approve the installation because they will have to pay the fuel flowage fee. Commissioner Cheramie stated that his reason for voting against VIH is because there are too many competitors at the airport and VIH may try to get a hold of the market for helicopters. He is for Hunter Air Service because he saw what Mr. Hunter is capable of doing since he worked at the airport. He brought more to this airport than anyone around here. He is a local guy and should be given a shot at the position. VIH may discourage other helicopter companies from coming to the airport.

Commissioner Vizier questioned the competitive fuel charges, which Mr. Rome stated that they have to stay competitive with the surrounding companies. Commissioner Gisclair stated that if they stay competitive on the prices other companies may not put in fuel tanks. Commissioner Cheramie stated that VIH business is not off the fuel sales it is having helicopters to bring workers offshore. Commissioner Guidry understood Mr. Cheramie's point to hire local but you would be losing the expertise that VIH has to offer. Commissioner Cheramie stated that Jeffrey proved himself and did more than anyone in this building did for the airport. Commissioner Guidry stated that he is not familiar with all that was accomplished and by who but he is looking for the betterment of the airport and VIH looks like they have the expertise to run the FBO. The board then voted which resulted in 7 yeas, 1 absent, and 1 nay by Mr. Cheramie. Commissioner Melancon stated that he wants the board to keep in mind for future growth of the airport to construct living quarters which would help support the helicopter business. Commissioner Vizier stated that we should build living quarters like PHI in Fourchon to house 50-60 men which would be better than mobile homes.

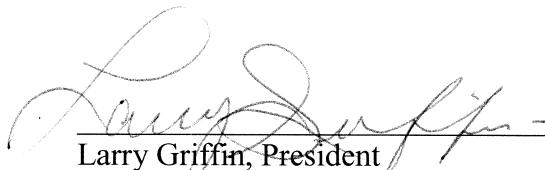
Director Falgout presented for the board the permit by Tram Shipyard to build a "T" shaped wharf along LA 1 south of the Leeville Bridge. Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Ervin Bruce, a two thirds vote was taken to add the permit to the agenda which resulted in all yeas. Director Falgout stated that the drawing shows the edge of the channel 72' out from the proposed wharf. Commissioner Cheramie stated that his only request would be that they do not spud the lift barges close to the highway. Commissioner Melancon questioned the exact location, which Director Falgout stated it is located in the area near the drainage culvert south of the bridge. Director Falgout stated that he recommends sending a letter prior to construction informing him that he can not extend into the channel. Commissioner Lafont stated that this shipyard company has 7 jack-up barges under construction and you can get ready for them to work there with the barges. Further discussion followed regarding the wharf being too close to the road and the wharf operations. Commissioner John Melancon made a motion to send a letter requesting more details of operations and the Port's concern of blocking the channel which was second by Chuckie Cheramie, the board unanimously approved to send the letter.

President Griffin opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Doug Cheramie questioned VIH Helicopters, which Director Falgout stated that they are a Canadian Company that owns Western Airways which is an American Company. They want to make this their first Gulf based facility out of our airport. He also questioned Tram Shipyard, which Director Falgout stated that the owner is listed as Mike Eymard.

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Donald Vizier, the board unanimously adjourned the special session.

ATTEST:

  
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Wilbert Collins, Secretary

  
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Larry Griffin, President