

## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the Port Commission was held at the domicile of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, at Galliano, Louisiana, on July 17, 1961, at 10:00 o'clock A. M., pursuant to written notice to all members. President Rappelet presided.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The roll was called. A quorum of six members was present. Absent were:

Leo J. Theriot  
J. A. Egle  
Charles Ferris  
Dudley Bernard

Three new members, Messrs. Luke Charpentier, Harrison Cheramie, and Euzebe "Neb" Chouest were introduced to members present.

The first order of business was to read Charles Ferris' letter of resignation to the Board. His resignation was accepted with regret.

The President then gave a resume' of the amendment to the Port Authority Law which was adopted by the 1961 fiscal session of the Legislature. He explained the increase in members of the Board from seven (7) to nine (9), and the change in the expropriation provisions which restricts the right of the Port Commission in expropriation of mineral rights.

The Commission then directed the Attorney to submit proposed amendments to the By-Laws to the next regular meeting, which proposed amendments are to incorporate the changes made by the recent amendment to other Port Authority laws.

The President then reviewed the proposed Federal Government Hurricane Protection Projects and pointed out that a re-alignment of the Lafourche Jump Project was contemplated to change the original route from Golden Meadow to the Gulf so that it would pass in Bayou Lafourche rather than the original route located west of Bayou Lafourche and which would have run from Golden Meadow to the Gulf.

There followed a report by President Rappelet of the meeting with the U. S. Corps of Engineers concerning the Federal project. The Board unanimously felt that immediate relief was needed to deepen the Belle Pass area. In keeping therewith, it was pointed out that the U. S. Corps of Engineers are re-drafting their plans in order to have the jetties at Belle Pass one thousand feet (1,000') wide rather than five hundred feet (500') as originally contemplated in order that the plans of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission would be followed, and in order to allow for the thirty-five foot (35') depth and three hundred fifty foot (350') width contemplated by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission. It was pointed out that Old Fouchon is open, but does not have sufficient depth.

It was further pointed out that if the channel opening at the Gulf could be deepened, and if certain outlets from Bayou Lafourche to the Gulf could be closed, a main current from Bayou Lafourche would then be channeled through Belle Pass and would assist in maintaining a proper depth.

There then followed a lengthy discussion concerning the means of financing the initial project of deepening Bayou Lafourche at Belle Pass. Because of the urgency of the situation, it was decided that it would be necessary to sell a portion of the bonds which the Port Commission has authority to sell.

The Bond Attorney, Mr. John Cox, being present at the meeting and explaining the procedures for the sale of the bonds, was requested to prepare the necessary papers and documents needed for the Port Commission to sell one-half million dollars worth of bonds and to have these papers ready for presentation at the next regular board meeting on August 7, 1961 at 3:00 P. M.

After considerable discussion concerning the possibility of stopping other outlets from Bayou Lafourche to the Gulf and the necessity for plans and specifications for the widening and deepening Belle Pass, upon motion of Mr. Joseph Defelice, seconded by Mr. Euzebe Chouest, and unanimously adopted, it was;

⑤ RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Works, State of Louisiana be, and it is hereby requested by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, to prepare plans and specifications, an estimation of cost, and a feasibility report concerning the deepening and dredging of Belle Pass and the damming of outlets from Bayou Lafourche that would result in a more centralized flow of water through Belle Pass to the Gulf.

The following letter from Senator Long and Congressman Willis was presented and read to the Board:

'Honorable A. O. Rappelet, Senator  
P. O. Box 217, Galliano, La.

Dear Senator:

You will be interested in the letter we have received from the Director of Civil Works of the Corps of Engineers with reference to the Lafourche Project.

We will continue to follow this matter very closely and look forward to further advice from you from time to time.

With every good wish, we are

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Russel Long, USS

/s/ Edwin E. Willis, MC'

Copy of Letter referred to by Senator Long and Congressman Willis:

" ENG CW-OM

29 June 1961

Honorable Russel B. Long

United States Senate

Dear Senator Long:

This is in reply to your recent letter concerning the desire of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Lafourche Parish, La., to modify the alignment of the authorized Bayou Lafourche navigation project.

State Senator A. O. Rappelet with representatives of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, the Lafourche Basin Levee Board, and the Louisiana Department of Public Works met with the District Engineer, New Orleans, on 9 June 1961, to discuss the proposed realignment. Essentially, local interests desire a channel 35 feet deep and 350 feet wide from the six fathom curve in the Gulf of Mexico through Belle Pass to the vicinity of either Leeville or Golden Meadow. According to Senator Rappelet the Greater Lafourche Port Commission is agreeable to paying all costs of the deeper channel in excess of those required to construct the authorized 12-foot by 125-foot channel, including necessary terminals and harbors. Local interests were primarily interested in the final location of the authorized 12-foot channel so that a determination could be made as to the location of the proposed deep draft terminal.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Hu B. Myers of the Louisiana Department of Public Works advised the District Engineer that his Department would submit a letter at an early date stating the position of local interests in connection with the enlarged channel and the desired alignment. You may be assured that the desires of local interests with respect to realignment of the Bayou Lafourche channel will be given every consideration consistent with the project as authorized by the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ WILLIAM F. CASSIDY  
Major General, USA  
Director of Civil Works"

President Rappelet then explained that the Dept. of Highways was anxious to have the Port Commission specify the location of the deep water channel in the Leeville area in order that they might proceed with the construction of the new Leeville Bridge. The Board felt that the Dept. of Public Works, in behalf of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, should coordinate the plans, which they are preparing for the Port Commission, with the Dept. of Highways and the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

There followed a general discussion concerning selection of a Secretary for the Commission. This was put on the Agenda for the next regular Board meeting.

Edward T. Diaz, general counsel for the Board, gave a financial report of expenses of the Board. The following bills were presented as being due and outstanding:

Vidrine Office Supply	\$ 50.58
Lafourche Comet	193.00
Cut Off Furniture Co.	571.10
Lafourche Printing Co., Inc.	288.57
Comet Printing Co., Inc.	59.93
Clerville Kief, Sr.	60.70
L. T. Gros	24.18
John A. Egle (Washington Trip)	129.48
New Orleans Blue Print & Supply Co., Inc.	18.54
Lafourche Parish Press	98.17
Sen. A. O. Rappelet (Washington Trip)	150.61
Sen. A. O. Rappelet ( " " )	57.18
	<u>\$1,702.04</u>

The Board approved payment of all of these bills whenever the Port Commission has sufficient funds on hand to pay same. It specifically approved payment of a statement of \$60.70 to Mr. Clerville Kief to reimburse Mr. Kief for office supplies and stationery which he had paid for the Commission months ago. It also approved the immediate payment of the invoice for \$24.75 to Mr. L. T. Gros for installation of the air conditioners in the Port Commission Office.

There followed a discussion concerning the lack of operating funds on hand by the Port Commission, and it was decided that the Port Commission should establish a line of credit of \$25,000.00 with the State Bank and Trust Company of Golden Meadow for use of the Commission in general operation and office expenses. Whereupon, it was moved by Clerville Kief, Sr., seconded by Euzebe Chouest that the following resolution be unanimously adopted:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission that A. O. Rappelet, in his capacity as President of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, be and he is hereby authorized to make a loan by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission with the State Bank and Trust Company of Golden Meadow, Golden Meadow, Louisiana, said loan to be secured by a pledge of ad valorem tax revenues of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission for the year 1961, and shall not exceed the sum of \$25,000.00, provided the rate of interest be not greater than eight per cent (8%) per annum and that said loan be made payable not later than May 31, 1962. Also, this shall not have first

preference to the sale of the bonds.

There followed a general discussion by members of the Board that the efficiency and operation of the Board was being hampered by lack of a recording secretary, and that it was extremely urgent that a full time recording secretary be employed. President Rappelet explained that he had previously employed Mrs. Mary Bernard as a part time recording secretary, and upon motion of Mr. Clerville Kief, seconded by Mr. Luke Charpentier, the Board unanimously ratified the selection of Mrs. Mary Bernard as recording secretary of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission at a monthly salary of \$350.00 per month, effective June 1, 1961.

Upon motion of Mr. Harrison Cheramie, seconded by Mr. Clerville Kief and unanimously adopted, it was resolved that Edward T. Diaz be employed as General Counsel of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, and that he be paid a retainer of \$250.00 per month, beginning July 1, 1961, plus whatever travel expenses he may incur attending to Board matters, and that this retainer be subject to adjustment by the Board at any regular Board meeting.

The Board then discussed the expenses of maintaining the Port Commission office and it was decided to lease the building presently occupied as the Port Commission Office at a rental of \$50.00 per month from Senator A. O. Rappelet, and that the Port Commission is to pay all utilities and maintenance and upkeep of the building and that the Port Commission has the privilege of renewing the lease on a year to year basis until May 30, 1964. the first years' rental to expire May 30, 1962, the monthly rental to begin July 1, 1961.

President Rappelet then pointed out and explained the per diem authorization to the Board Members (with exception of himself and Rep. Dudley Bernard) and stated that any expenses incurred by the members would be reimbursed by the Port Commission provided that the expenses were pursuant to Board business and a detailed statement of expenses would be submitted with the request for reimbursement.

After a general discussion concerning water transportation, President Rappelet appointed Clerville Kief, Sr., Joe Defelice and himself to study the possibility of the Port Commission purchasing a boat to provide water transportation to the proposed projects under study and contemplated by the Port Commission. He designated this committee "The Transportation Committee".

Various members of the Board requested President Rappelet to secure from the Dept. of Public Works a supply of maps showing the lower part of Lafourche Parish in order that the members of the Board may make detailed studies of the proposed project.

Upon motion of Clerville Kief, Sr., and seconded by Joseph Defelice, and unanimously approved it was;

① RESOLVED, that the Greater Lafourche Port Commission assume the responsibility for the acquisition and furnishing of the necessary rights of way for a deep water channel from Golden Meadow, Louisiana to Belle Pass, including any additional costs that may be incurred, above the costs of the project presently undertaken and approved by the U. S. Corps of Engineers, necessitated by the relocation of pipe lines and utilities.

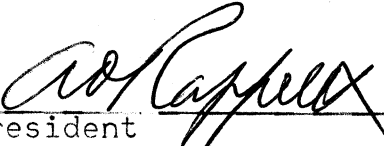
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater Lafourche Port Commission assume the responsibility for the acquisition and furnishing of any and all rights of way for the Lafourche Jump Waterways Project in Lafourche Parish, wherever said project may pass, as presently approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the U. S. Corps of Engineers, New Orleans, Louisiana; The Dept. of Public Works State of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, La.; and the Lafourche Parish Police Jury, Thibodaux, Louisiana.

Attorney Edward Diaz pointed out that the minutes of all proceedings of the Port Commission should be published, but that in view of the fact that the Port Commission did not have sufficient funds to pay for these publications that they have not been published in the past. Every effort should be made to have these minutes published and the Board decided that the minutes of this meeting should be published and that prior minutes should be published whenever funds warranted.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion to adjourn duly made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
Galliano, La.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary  
Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
Galliano, La.