

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION

The regular monthly meeting of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission was held, pursuant to written notice to all members, at the domicile of the Commission, on October 2, 1961, at 7:00 P. M. The meeting was called to order by the President and the roll was called.

Members present were Messrs:

A. O. Rappelet
Dudley Bernard
Leo Theriot
Luke Charpentier
Harrison P. Cheramie
Euzebe "Neb" Chouest

Members absent were:

John A. Egle

Also present were Messrs: Stan Perry, Attorney for the Board; Daize Cheramie; Hu Myers, Chief Engineer of the Louisiana Dept. of Public Works; Thurman Morgan, District Engineer, La. Dept. of Public Works; Merrill Utley, representing California Company; Robert Byers and Phil Guidry, representing Civil Air Patrol; and Roy Barrios, representing the Lower Lafourche Planning Commission.

It was moved by Dudley Bernard, seconded by Euzebe Chouest, and unanimously carried, that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be postponed.

President Rappelet than reported on a meeting that he had with representatives of the Louisiana Dept. of Public Works and more specifically, with Mr. Hu Myers, Chief Engineer. President Rappelet thanked the representatives of the Dept. of Public Works for their cooperation and assistance in aiding the Port Commission toward a satisfactory conclusion of their project. President Rappelet then said that a full report would be submitted by Mr. Hu Myers later in the meeting.

The President then reported on the loan application made to the State Bank and Trust Company of Golden Meadow. He had been informed by the Cashier of the bank that the Commission application had been submitted to the entire Bank board for its consideration. The Cashier recently reported to President Rappelet that the loan had been approved only to the extent of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00), and then subject to a personal endorsement by each of the nine board members in the sum of \$1,000.00 each. There was considerable discussion concerning this loan approval, and it was the unanimous opinion of all members present that the Port Commission should not accept this loan, but on the contrary, should seek another fiscal agent for purposes of loans to be secured by first mortgage on the tax assessments available to the Port Commission.

President Rappelet then called on Mr. Merrill Utley of the California Company to report on the condition of Belle Pass immediately following

Hurricane Carla. Mr. Utley submitted two plats to the Board, the first of which showed the condition of Belle Pass entrance immediately following Hurricane Carla, and the second of which showed the condition of the pass after extensive dredging had been done by the California Company at its expense. Mr. Utley further stated that the California Company expended the sum of \$21,658.50 in order to make Belle Pass at least navigable to some extent and that the California Company underwent this expense in order to continue its usual operation in this area. Mr. Utley further stated that, in his opinion, (he, being the transportation superintendent of the California Company in this area), it appeared that Belle Pass would be of great benefit from the standpoint of national defense in that it provides the southernmost jump into the Gulf of Mexico, and further, due to the fact that there is almost a total absence of fog, there being only an average of five or six days per year that the pass would be covered with fog of any appreciable nature. Mr. Utley was further of the opinion that the entire area surrounding Belle Pass should be an ideal spot for a submarine base.

President Rappelet then thanked Mr. Utley for his presentation and expressed the appreciation of the Port Commission for the co-operation shown by the California Company and its employees and further expressed the hope that their co-operation would be continued toward the eventual solution of the Belle Pass and other related problems.

President Rappelet then read a telegram to the Board which was received from U. S. Senators Ellender and Long, Congressmen Hebert, Morrison, Boggs, Passman, Willis, Thompson, McSween, and the late Brooks, to the effect that the Senate and House voted final approval for Public Works appropriations for fiscal year 1962, including among other things \$100,000.00 for the initiation of construction of the Lafourche Jump Waterway.

President Rappelet then reported that with the assistance of the La. Dept. of Public Works four sub-divisions had been made and the advantage of sub-dividing the project into four parts would be explained more thoroughly by Mr. Hu Myers in his discussion. President Rappelet then reported that these appropriations have been made without the necessity of additional legislation as had been feared by many interested individuals in this locale.

The President then introduced Mr. Hu Myers, Chief Engineer, Louisiana Dept. of Public Works, and asked that he report to the Commission the latest progress made in bringing about a successful conclusion of the Port's objects.

Mr. Myers then reported as follows:

"In regards to the jetty project, the U. S. Corps of Engineers stated that if it is found cheaper to maintain the channel by extending the jetties than it would be to maintain the channel without extending the jetties, then they would extend the jetties. Mr. Myers then stated that it is extremely important that the people who use the channel write to him and indicate the difficulty experienced in using the channel under ordinary circumstances, further that they should indicate the great hazards and perils involved in using the channel under hurricane conditions or other

conditions similar to that in this area caused by Hurricane Carla. Mr. Myers further stated the need for the people who use the channel to strongly emphasize the necessity of having a sheltered entrance to the pass. Mr. Myers then said that after completion of another survey by the Dept. of Public Works, it is hoped that the Corps of Engineers will recognize the immediate need of extending the jetties and thus provide a sheltered pass, as he believed that the most immediate problem was in securing a sheltered pass to aid navigation.

In continuing his report, Mr. Myers discussed the overall project of the Port Authority. He stated that before we can have the project go forward, two things were necessary; 1. securing a resolution stating that the Port Authority has acquired all necessary rights-of-way; 2. assurance of removal of necessary pipelines. A design memorandum should be submitted indicating exactly what we intend to do. Mr. Myers further stated that the difficulty in the beginning was centered about a difference of opinion concerning the channel from Leeville to Larose. In order to expedite the matter, and on a suggestion of Senator Rappelet, he, Mr. Myers, was instrumental in having the Corps of Engineers divorce that particular problem from the overall project so that the Belle Pass problem could be solved as quickly as possible. At this time, the project has been divided into four different parts. They are as follows:

1. Belle Pass to Leeville.
2. Leeville to Grand Isle.
3. Leeville to Golden Meadow, via Bayou Lafourche.
4. Golden Meadow to Larose.

Mr. Myers then reported that by the next fiscal year he hopes to have federal funds to start work. Mr. Morgan, the District Engineer of the Louisiana Dept. of Public Works, will take measures to secure proper resolutions from the Lafourche Parish Police Jury and the Jefferson Parish Council."

Mr. Morgan then stated that the survey work should be completed within two weeks and he would submit his findings to the Commission. He said that surveys on Evans Canal and Old Fouchon are completed. There was considerable discussion concerning the closing of the fouchon, and Mr. Morgan was requested to prepare a comparative cost analysis.

At this point, the Meeting was called into recess and Mr. Myers and Mr. Morgan excused themselves. Thereafter, President Rappelet called the meeting into order.

The President then called attention to the fact that it was necessary that the Port Commission select an official journal. On motion duly made by Leo Theriot, seconded by Euzebe Chouest, and unanimously carried, it was;

RESOLVED, that the Lafourche Comet of Thibodaux, Louisiana be designated as the official journal of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission.

President Rappelet then read a letter from William L. Batt, Jr., Administrator of the Area Re-Development Administration, to the effect that at present the tenth ward does not qualify for any re-development assistance. However, it was pointed out in the letter by Mr. Batt and elaborated on by President Rappelet that the tenth ward may be eligible for some assistance under the provision that pertains to "very small areas of constant substantial and persistent unemployment". President Rappelet was of the opinion that the tenth ward could possibly comply with the requisites of this section and would investigate the matter further. It was brought out that one of the great difficulties we are having is due to the fact that many of our unemployed fishermen and oil field workers do not report their status.

President Rappelet then brought the Board's attention to the need for borrowing funds and suggested that a loan of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) be applied for. The Board requested him to contact various banking facilities to investigate the possibility of securing a loan not to exceed \$50,000.00, to be secured by a pledge of ad valorem tax revenues of the Commission for the year 1961. On motion duly made by Harrison Cheramie, seconded by Dudley Bernard, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

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WHEREAS, in order to carry out the functions of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, it is necessary that said Commission have adequate operating funds on hand, and will not have adequate funds until the ad valorem taxes for the year 1961 have been collected, and it is imperative that operating funds be obtained by borrowing from a local bank, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to have the approval of the Board of Liquidation of the State Debt and the State Bond and Tax Board;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission that the Board of Liquidation of the State Debt and the State Bond and Tax Board be requested to approve a proposed loan by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, said loan to be limited to the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), and is to be secured by the pledge of ad valorem tax revenues of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission for the year 1961, 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.

After considerable discussion regarding the lack of adequate office machines which greatly hampered the efficiency of the Commission office, the recording secretary was given authority to purchase such machines which are presently needed for the efficient operation of the Port Commission office.

President Rappelet then entered into a discussion into the assistance offered by the California Co. in dredging Belle Pass following Hurricane Carla. On motion by Dudley Bernard, seconded by Leo Theriot, and unanimously carried, it was

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RESOLVED; that officials of the California Company be contacted and asked if they would accept a refund from the Greater Lafourche Port Commission for the expenses incurred by said Company in dredging Belle Pass following Hurricane Carla.

Rappelet gave a first hand report of difficulties encountered by fishermen and oil company boats coming in before the threat of the hurricane.

The President then began a discussion concerning the necessity of having all producers and drilling contractors operating in this area secure authority from the Port Commission before commencing any new operation.

Mr. Utley was requested to furnish the Commission with a list of firms, drilling contractors, producers, etc. now operating in this area so that they can be put on notice, however, Leo Theriot said he would handle this.

Atty. Stanley Perry then called the Board's attention to the fact that an inconsistency exists in the By-Laws, specifically, that Section 4 of ARTICLE V entitled "MEETINGS" conflicts with Section 7, ARTICLE V. On motion duly made by Luke Charpentier, Jr., seconded by Euzebe Chouest, and unanimously carried, it was

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RESOLVED, that Section 7 of ARTICLE V of the By-Laws of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

7. "All notices of meetings may be waived in writing for the purpose of holding a special meeting, provided, however, that a majority of the Board membership so waive notice, and provided further that the requirements of Section 4, ARTICLE V, be upheld".

Atty. Perry was requested to forward to each member of the Commission a copy of the Statute creating the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, as amended.

President Rappelet then entered into a discussion concerning the purchase, under a proposed lease option to purchase agreement, of a certain vessel to be used by the Port Commission in the conduct of its business. He suggested that the members inspect the boat at Leeville Shipyard, and that the proposed acquisition of this vessel be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Robert Byers, a representative of the Civil Air Patrol in this locale, was then introduced to the Board. Mr. Byers entered into a discussion of the need of the Civil Air Patrol for portable communication facilities and asked that the Greater Lafourche Port Commission give thoughtful consideration toward providing these communication facilities if possible. On motion duly made by Luke Charpentier, seconded by Dudley Bernard, and unanimously carried, it was

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RESOLVED, that the Greater Lafourche Port Authority contribute a sum not in excess of \$600.00 to the Civil Air Patrol for the purchase of portable communication facilities, provided that such donation not be made until ample funds are available.

Mr. Roy Barrios, a representative of the Lower Lafourche Planning Commission, was then introduced to the Board. Mr. Barrios then entered into a discussion of the need and desirability of an air strip in this locale. Mr. Barrios indicated that the failure of this area to provide an air strip was obstructing the economic progression in this area and asked the co-operation of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission in their endeavor.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion duly made by Euzebe Chouest, seconded by Luke Charpentier, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 P. M.

ATTEST:


President


Secretary