

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION

The regular monthly meeting of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission was held on January 8, 1962, at the domicile of the Port Commission, Galliano, Louisiana, at 2:00 o'clock P. M., pursuant to written notice to all members.

President Rappelet presided. The roll was called, Members present were Messrs.

A. O. Rappelet
Luke Charpentier
Harrison Cheramie
Euzebe "Neb" Chouest
John A. Egle
E. J. Gremillion
Daize Cheramie

Members absent were:

Leo J. Theriot
Dudley Bernard

The minutes of the December 6, 1961 meeting were read by the Recording Secretary. On motion of Neb Chouest, seconded by Daize Cheramie and unanimously carried, minutes were approved as read.

The Recording Secretary notified the Board that Mr. Graham Reeves had accepted the position of Commission Accountant and would commence work during the week of January 8, 1962. In this connection, Board Member Egle stated that perhaps after Mr. Reeves had brought the Commission books up to date he would be able to give a monthly financial report to the commission at the regular monthly meetings.

The Recording Secretary was requested to get price quotations on tape recorder and dictaphone to submit to next Board meeting, since there is a need for a machine for dictation of letters.

The President then read a copy of a letter written by the Lafourche Parish Police Jury to the U. S. Coast Guard, regarding the need for a light at Belle Pass. The President then put in a call to Mr. Zimmerman of the Police Jury to inquire of him if he had received a reply to same. Mr. Zimmerman stated that he had just received a reply that date which indicated that the Coast Guard will make a survey in the near future to see what should be done.

The President then stated that an inspection trip had been made to the mouth of Belle Pass the previous day by all the Board Members, with the exception of Messrs. Daize Cheramie, Leo Theriot, and John Egle who were unable to accompany them due to previous commitments. This inspection trip was made to examine the work of the contractor in the removal of recks from the channel. The President gave a detailed report on work that was done.

There was a general discussion regarding the need of a light at Belle Pass to guide the Skippers of the boats into the Pass. This light has been out for some time and the sea buoy that was placed out from the

Pass by the Coast Guard following Hurricane Carla has shifted position, making it more of a hazard to navigation than a navigation aid.

On motion of John Egle', seconded by Euzebe Chouest, and unanimously carried, it was;

RESOLVED: That Belle Pass is of necessity a principle navigational pass or outlet from Bayou Lafourche to the Gulf of Mexico and is in continuous use by the many vessels operating in this locale, and further, in view of the fact that the pass is at the present without the service of any navigational aids or lights, this condition being caused by Hurricane Carla, which brought about a displacement of the one existing buoy, and further, in view of the fact that the prevailing condition constitutes a hazard to navigation in the pass, and creates a great danger to life and property, by making it extremely difficult to safely navigate through the pass, and further, In view of the fact that it is the responsibility of the United States Coast Guard to erect and maintain proper navigational aids at Belle Pass, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater Lafourche Port Commission notify the United States Coast Guard that there is a complete lack or absence of any navigational aid at the mouth of Belle Pass and request that the Coast Guard immediately undertake to replace and maintain a light or navigational aid at Belle Pass.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Public Works, the United States Corps of Engineers, United States Senators Allen Ellender and Russell Long, and United States Representative Edwin Willis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the United States Coast Guard fails to take immediate action to eliminate this navigational hazard that the President of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission be authorized to contact the above mentioned congressional members and request that they take all necessary and proper action to expedite the solution of this problem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that the United States Coast Guard either fails, neglects, or does not intend to replace, erect and continuously maintain said navigational aid at Belle Pass, that it be requested to notify this Commission and show cause for their inaction in this matter.

President Rappelet stated that he feels that the Port should do something immediately to eliminate this hazard as far as the navigation operation is concerned, The Port should install or construct some type of guidance to vessels, on land if necessary, and do so immediately. We need two range lights, one in front of other, and radar signal reflector so that boats with radar could get a reflection to come in on.

Board Member Gremillion stated that he had contacted the Lighthouse of Louisiana, Mr. Lennox, in Harvey, Louisiana and received information on the type of light needed, cost of light, and cost of maintenance, etc. It was believed that for an initial cost of \$2500.00, some relief could be had for the skippers of boats in bad weather.

On motion of Mr. Gremillion, seconded by John Egle', and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, ^{no} that in view of the urgent need to provide navigational aids at Belle Pass, that the President of this Commission be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$2,500.00 as an emergency measure, to erect suitable navigational lights and/or aids at the mouth of Belle Pass.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President be authorized to contact representatives of the Lighthouse of Louisiana and have their organization provide plans and specifications for the construction of said navigational aids in accordance with the standard operations of the U. S. Coast Guard, U. S. Corps of Engineers, and Louisiana Department of Public Works.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commencement of this operation be immediate, but that formal application be made to the various agencies involved for necessary permits.

The President then read a letter from the Police Jury which requested a copy of the Ordinance of the Commission and a copy of the letters which were sent to companies operating in this area regarding Act 222.

Board Member Egle' asked the question, " What could be done to rush up the Corps of Engineers with their project "? In this connection, the President replied that when he had discussed this matter with congressman Willis, Willis had stated that the Board should go to Washington and meet with the Corps of Engineers next month and try to get in the early part of the budget that would be considered in June, attempt to get an additional sum and get started. Mr. Egle' then stated that the Board should think in terms of what money we could put with government money to get going on the project.

Atty. Perry was requested to write to the Attorney General to see if proceedings of the Board should be published.

The Recording Secretary was requested to write to the Lafourche Comet to ask for free copy of paper.

It was suggested by Board Member Egle' that we ask the Dept. of Public Works to make a survey and make recommendations as to what should be done in Belle Pass to prevent the backwash and further erosion back of the East Jetties.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Neb Chouest, seconded by Luke Charpentier, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 o'clock P. M.

ATTEST:



President



Secretary