

## POHA October 8, 2024

The Commissioners of the Port of Harlingen Authority (POH) met in a rescheduled session on Tuesday October 8, 2024 at 12:00 PM at the Port's Administration Office located at 24633 Port Road, Harlingen, Texas, 78550.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Rose Snell – Commissioner, Place 1  
Neil Haman – Commissioner, Place 2  
Alan Johnson – Chairman, Place 3  
Chris Villarreal – Commissioner, Place 4  
Ryan Newman – Commissioner, Place 5

**PORT STAFF PRESENT:** Walker Smith – Port Director  
Robert McDonald – Chief Financial Officer (remote)  
Amy Lynch – Director of Marketing & Public Relations  
Anne Jimenez - Receptionist

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chris Boswell – Port Attorney

A. Meeting called to order at 12:27 pm.

Declaration of conflicts of interest: Mr. Villarreal and Mr. Newman declared a conflict of interest with Item F. They abstained from participating in deliberation and discussion and submitted affidavits for conflict of interest to the port director prior to the meeting.

B. 1. **Item:** PUBLIC COMMENTS

2. **Issue:** To hear public comments, if any.

3. **Discussion:** There were no public comments.

4. **Action Taken:** None.

C. 1. **Item:** APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

2. **Issue:** To review the vouchers for approval.

3. **Discussion:** There was no discussion regarding the vouchers.

4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Haman and seconded by Mr. Villarreal, the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the vouchers.

D. 1. **Item:** APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CERTIFIED AGENDA FOR THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

2. **Issue:** To review the corresponding minutes.

3. **Discussion:** There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mrs. Snell and seconded by Mr. Haman, the

Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes & certified agenda for the meeting on September 19, 2024.

E. 1. **Item:** PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION

2. **Issue:** To hear updates regarding various projects.

3. **Discussion:** Mr. Smith reported that Congressman Vicente Gonzalez will visit the Port at 2pm. He also said that the fuel trucks have had consistent movement this week. There are still issues with trans-load facilities. Mr. Smith reported about a meeting he had with Josh Riojas who is the district manager for Sen. Ted Cruz. He also reported about his IRPT and GPA meetings.

4. **Action Taken:** This was for discussion only.

*(Commissioners Newman and Villarreal exited the meeting chamber at this time and did not participate in the discussion or voting on this matter.)*

F. 1. **Item:** CFO'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION

2. **Issue:** To hear updates regarding various projects.

3. **Discussion:** Mr. McDonald presented the final tax levy amount to the commission. He also discussed the maturity of Texas Regional Bank Note 101282515 "FM 1595 RGV." In January, the balance of \$874,000 will be due. Otherwise, the Port can refinance it at around \$100,000 every year.

4. **Action Taken:** This was for discussion only.

*(Commissioners Newman and Villarreal returned to the meeting chamber.)*

G. 1. **Item:** PR & MARKETING DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION

2. **Issue:** To hear updates regarding various projects.

3. **Discussion:** Mrs. Lynch reported that she is working with William Yarnell to get information on the OW Corridor. She also said that she attended the GPA workshop with Mr. Smith.

4. **Action Taken:** This was for discussion only.

H. 1. **Item:** CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF TXDOT'S SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (SBE) POLICY FOR STATE-FUNDED PROJECTS

2. **Issue:** To review and adopt TxDOT's SBE policy.

3. **Discussion:** Mr. Smith said this is something TxDOT requires to ensure that state-funded projects don't discriminate against small businesses.

4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Villarreal and seconded by Mrs. Snell the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the Small Business Enterprise policy as developed by TxDOT.
- I. 1. **Item:** DISCUSSION REGARDING SCP88 PROJECTS FM 106 & 509 INTERSECTION, FM 106 RAIL CROSSING & FM 1846
2. **Issue:** To discuss and possibly decide to contribute funds to the SCP88 projects.
3. **Discussion:** Mr. Smith said that TxDOT Pharr District is asking for the Port to contribute \$500,000 for the construction of these projects. He also said that Chris Knoll of TxDOT Maritime Division is looking for additional funding to assist the Port in its financial contribution. Mr. Smith also said that USACE has asked the Port to apply for a permit for its drainage project due to the wetlands present. The delineation of wetlands should take 3 months to complete.
4. **Action Taken:** On a motion by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mrs. Snell, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the contribution of \$500,000 to the SCP88 projects to be completed by TxDOT.

The Commission entered the executive session authorized by Chapters 551.071 & 551.072 at 1:06 PM. They came out of the executive session at 1:47 PM. A Certified Agenda for the executive session is on file.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 PM.

ATTEST:

  
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Alan Johnson, Chairman

  
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Chris Villarreal, Secretary