

**Minutes of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District
September 17, 2020
Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation and Canal Commission was held on Thursday September 17, 2020 at 5:00 P.M., at the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District (PISBND) Office, located at 250 Industrial Drive, Port Isabel, Texas 78578.

Commissioners Present were:

Victor Barrera, Chairman, (Via ZOOM)
Manuel R. Garcia, II, Secretary, (Via ZOOM)
Robert Ostos, Member, (Via ZOOM)

Others in Attendance were:

Steve Bearden, Port Director/General Manager (Via ZOOM)
Ana Perez, Office Manager (Via ZOOM)

Governor Abbott's on March 16, 2020, approved a request by the Office of the Attorney General to temporarily suspend a limited number of open meeting laws in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disaster. This action will allow governmental bodies to conduct meetings by telephone or video conference to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called "social distancing") to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

ZOOM Log In Information: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97191009979?pwd=NHRRTGVpRHZvNzQ4bldlQ0VpSXZwQT09>

Meeting ID: 971 9100 9979

Passcode: 6z7sYN

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Victor Barrera at 5:15 P.M.

Mr. Garcia was not present at this time.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Barrera.

The Minutes and Certified Agenda(s) for the Regular Meeting conducted on August 20, 2020, were presented, and discussed. The following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Ostos and seconded by Mr. Barrera to approve the above meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no one from the public desiring to speak at this time the Commissioner moved to Item #5 on the agenda.

Mr. Bearden reviewed his previous correspondence to the Commissioners about the possible dispute of the survey of the wye property and PISBND property. He has engaged Mejia and Rose to perform a survey for the PISBND and that will take place possibly next week. If the

property owner is correct, then Mr. Bearden will have Hurricane Fence move the fence to the correct location. After discussion of the options, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Ostos that was seconded by Mr. Barrera to acknowledge the report and take no action at this time. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioner then moved to Item 6 on the agenda. Mr. Bearden presented a letter from the Go Rail organization requesting the PISBND support the renewal of the Stagger's Rail Act. After a discussion on the subject, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Mr. Ostos and seconded by Mr. Barrera to sign on to the Go Rail Stagger's Act renewal letter and for Mr. Bearden to sign for PISBND. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bearden reviewed the proposal from Belaire Environmental to perform the sampling and analysis portion to finalize the dock face dredging permit. The estimated cost is \$50,000 to \$65,000. The Commissioners wanted additional information i.e. water depths at the dock area. Mr. Bearden will retrieve this information and report back to the Commissioners at the October meeting. There being no additional discuss the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Mr. Ostos and seconded by Mr. Barrera to table the agenda item until additional information can be provided. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Garcia joined the meeting at 5:58PM.

The Proposed 2020 Capital Budget was revised and sent to the Commissioners (copy attached) for re-consideration. The primary item was re-surfacing of Port Road. After discussion it was decided to table action and for Mr. Bearden to work with the following entities to gather cost information on acquiring a grant to assist with the cost of the re-surfacing project and with city of Port Isabel for permission to re-surface the road and possible joining in with matching funds for a grant. The other items on the Proposed Capital Budget were discussed but no action taking on these items at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Ostos and seconded by Mr. Garcia to table the agenda item until additional information can be provided. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bearden then gave the Port Director's monthly report. In his report, he gave an update on fuel truck loading by tenant PILOT. Mr. Bearden then briefed the Commissioners on problems that continue to plague the 23-year-old forklift and the possible need to perform a complete overhaul or replace with a new forklift (estimated replacement cost around \$34,000). He reviewed dates for the October 2020 Meeting: Thursday October 15 at 5:00 P.M. was the suggested date.

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia and seconded by Mr. Ostos to acknowledge the Director's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

The previous months bills were reviewed by the Commissioners. After questions and comments about some items, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia and seconded by Mr. Ostos to approve the payment of the bills, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia and seconded by Mr. Ostos to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.



Victor Barrera, Chairman



Manuel R. Garcia, II, Secretary



Robert Ostos, Member