

**Minutes of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District  
February 12, 2026  
Regular Meeting**

**A Regular meeting of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District was held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 5:30 P.M., at the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District (PISBND) Office, located at 250 Industrial Drive, Port Isabel, Texas 78578.**

**1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Joe Martinez at 5:40 P.M.

**2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present were:

Joe Martinez, Chairman  
Duvie Woods, Secretary,  
Jose Morales, Commissioner

**Staff & Legal Counsel:**

Victor Barrera, Port Director,  
Julia Barrera, Administrative Assistant,  
Jose Caso, Caso Law Firm

**Others in Attendance were:**

Deborah A. Morales, San Benito Commissioner,  
Michael Karg, LMYC,  
Tina Wilton, LMYC,  
M.K. Nering,  
Marc Asbury, Citizen,  
J.R & Jacai Hill, Port Isabel SPI Press

The Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge to the Texas Flag; Mr. Morales delivered the invocation.

**3. Public Comments.**

No Comments from the Public.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes. The January 30, 2026, Board Meeting minutes were presented.**

Commissioner Morales pointed out a wording correction on Item 11, noting that the phrase “to support the project” should be changed to “to possibly support the project.”

Chairman Martinez called for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods, to approve the minutes of January 30, 2026, Board Meeting, all voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items**

**5. Update on the Grant for the Mobile Travel Lift.**

Port Director, Mr. Barrera reviewed the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District’s request for a \$200,000 federal BUILD grant to fund a feasibility study for a potential boat lift service. The study would evaluate site selection, engineering, and regional vessel needs. Letters of support are being requested for the February 23, 2026, grant deadline.

Chairman Martinez asked for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Woods and Seconded by Commissioner Morales to acknowledge the Update for the Mobile Travel Lift; all voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Discussion and possible action on Tabled item to approve New Security Camera system.**

Administrative Assistant Julia Barrera reported that implementing license plate reader cameras would require a \$1,500 DPS-compliant software license per camera, according to the Port’s security camera contractor.

Chairman Martinez called for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to table for future meetings, all voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Discussion and possible action to approve purchase of a Truck Trailer.**

The Port Director reported on multiple trailer quotes and recommended purchasing a 20-foot, 14,000 lb capacity Load Trail trailer from Ron Hoover (Donna, Texas) for \$6,399.00, including a 2-year comprehensive warranty, 3-year structural warranty, and 2-year roadside reimbursement. The trailer will be used to transport Port equipment that needs repairs like

our tractors and for heavy on-site hauling, as the existing trailer is older and not rated for current loads.

Commissioners discussed liability concerns related to transporting heavy equipment like our tractors off the premises versus having service providers pick up the equipment.

Chairman Martinez called for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Woods and Seconded by Chairman Martinez to approve the purchase of the truck trailer. Two Commissioners voted in favor, with Commissioner Morales opposed.

Commissioner Morales requested to go on the record stating that the liability is too grand to take it out of the premises.

#### **8. Discussion and possible action on Table item to purchase a trash/water pump.**

The Port Director presented quotes for several full trash water pumps and related hoses from different vendors and explained the need for a dedicated pump for emergencies rather than borrowing equipment.

Commissioners discussed total cost, warranty, and value, and agreed to establish a budget cap.

Chairman Martinez called for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to authorize the purchase of a trash water pump and necessary hoses in an amount not to exceed \$6,000, with Port Director, Mr. Barrera, to select the best option based on price and warranty. The motion carried, all voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **9. Discussion and possible action to approve January 2025 Monthly Financial Report presented by Juan Rivera, CPA.**

Administrative Assistant Julia Barrera stated that the agenda has the wrong year for the January Monthly report, it should be 2026 not 2025.

Administrative Assistant, Julia Barrera presented the January 2025 Profit and Loss report, noting total income of \$158,819.48, total expenses of \$59,982.18, and net income of \$109,158.11 including interest, and clarified that “community loans – payroll deductible” reflects employee loan pass-throughs rather than Port expenses.

Chairman Martinez called for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Woods and Seconded by Commissioner Morales to acknowledge the January 2026 Monthly Financial Report; all voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. Discussion and possible action on approval of Bills.**

Administrative Assistant Julia Barrera reviewed the list of bills and noted all were in order, including a payment of approximately \$41,524 for the SkyTrak lift and two checks totaling \$11,500 from the grant project account for engineering services under the pilot grant.

Chairman Martinez called for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to approve the bills; all voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Discussion and possible action to rank the surveying firms who submitted responses under RFQ process and authorize the Port Director to negotiate a contract for surveying services with the highest ranked firm, in accordance with the Texas Government Code Chapter 2254; and, if negotiations are unsuccessful, to proceed to the next ranked firm(s).**

The Commissioners ranked the surveying firms that responded under the RFQ process. Based on composite scores, Ferris, Flynn & Medina ranked first with 290 points, Colliers second with 200, Vasquez third with 177, and Orive Land Surveying LLC fourth with 127.

Chairman Martinez called for the following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to authorize the Port Director to negotiate a contract for surveying services with Ferris, Flynn & Medina, and if negotiations are unsuccessful, to proceed in order with the next ranked firms, all voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session**

Closed session pursuant to Texas Gov't Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney); 551.072 (Property Deliberation); 551.087 (Economic Development Negotiations); and 551.074 (Personnel Matters) related to:

- 14a. Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code Sections 551.072)- Texas Pack
- 14b. Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code Sections 551.072)- Laguna Madre Yacht Club
- 14c. Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code Sections 551.072)- Discussion of lease and real property matters.

The Commissioners entered Executive Session at 6:05 P.M, In accordance with the following motion:

## **Return to Open Session**

Consideration and ACTION, if any, including and limited to the adoption of board resolutions related to items discussed in executive session(s):

15a. Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code Sections 551.072)- Texas Pack

15b. Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code Sections 551.072)- Laguna Madre Yacht Club

15c. Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code Sections 551.072)- Discussion of lease and real property matters.

Motion to return into Open Session made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods, all voted in favor and the Board returned into open session at 7:07 P.M.

Mr. Caso asked if he could have a motion for item 15a, 15b, 15c to Proceed as Directed in Executive Session.

The motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods Proceed as Directed in Executive Session; all voted in favor. Motin carried unanimously.

## **Report**

### **19. Port Director's Report (Victor Barrera)**

The Port Director reported ongoing cleanup of port facilities, including the future travel lift site, and installation of new exit and emergency lighting to meet inspection requirements, as well as inspection of a 2018 telehandler in Brownsville and adjustments to trash container placement to manage costs. He updated the Board on work toward an infrastructure grant and selection of a travel lift to expand vessel repair and service, related industry outreach (including LNG, dock work, and cruise prospects focused on U.S.-flagged vessels), and noted his appointment to a Brownsville Ship Channel/harbor safety steering committee and an upcoming 10-member TxDOT site visit to review port and waterway needs, where the travel lift project will be highlighted.

Chairman Martinez called for the following:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to acknowledge the Port Director's report; all voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Next Board Meeting**

### **20. Discussion and possible action to confirm the next Board Meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2026 (subject to change).**

No Motion was made but next scheduled board meeting will depend on the agenda for February 26, 2026, or until March.

### **21. Adjourn.**

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, Chairman Martinez called for following motion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales and Seconded by Commissioner Woods to adjourn at 7:21 PM. All voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved on February 26, 2026



Joe Martinez, Commissioner Chairman



Duvie Woods, Commissioner Secretary



Jose L. Morales, Commissioner