

**MISSISSIPPI PORT AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**January 25, 2018**

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Minutes of the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting,  
Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 2510 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1450, Gulfport, Mississippi at  
which the following Commissioners and staff were present:

Commissioners: James C. Simpson, Jr., President  
John Rester, Vice-President  
Jack Norris, Secretary (via telephone)  
E.J. Roberts, Treasurer  
Robert J. Knesal, Commissioner

Staff: Jonathan Daniels, Executive Director/CEO  
Matthew Wypyski, Chief Operating Officer  
Kim Purchner, Executive Asst./HRO  
Mel Arsenault, Director of External Affairs  
Nick Foto, Deputy Program Manager  
DeeDee Wood, CFO  
Shawn Meyer, Director of Operations  
Kim Aguillard, Marketing & Media Manager  
Gary Pitcovich, Crane Manager  
Carlos Bell, Director of Community Development  
Matthew Gabbett, Deputy Director of Operations

Ben Stone, Legal Counsel  
David Duhe, Legal Counsel

Others: Jamie Miller, MDA  
Philip Carter, MDA  
Brian Smith, Watkins & Eager  
Pastor Chris O'Brian, Seaman's International  
Bob Burns, CH2MHill  
Lillian Jenkins, Horne

Randall Love, TL Wallace  
Bruce Newton, Digital Engineering  
Howard Page, Steps Coalition  
Shorty Sneed, Stewart, Sneed, Hewes  
Robert Boone, RLB, LLC  
Richie Ashley, Neel Schaffer  
Mark Lishien, EGH Architects  
Jim Clayton, Page & Jones, Inc.  
Jeff May, Michael Baker International  
Lee Palermo, EGH Architects  
David Bland, Roy Anderson  
Mark McDaniel, Roy Anderson  
Chris Williams, BMA, Inc.  
Damon Toricelli, Neal Schaffer  
Dax Alexander, BMA, Inc.  
Tom Wells, Waldemar S. Nelson, Co.

Maddie Costelli, Simpkins & Costelli  
Michael Costelli, Simpkins & Costelli  
Monica Allison, Marriott Courtyard  
Michael Sheely, CH2MHill

Commissioner Simpson noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Simpson.

The invocation was led by Pastor Chris O'Brian, Seaman's Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Howard Page questioned MDA about their website and the reporting of jobs. He also complimented MSPA about their new website but also asked to have more job information placed on the website.

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Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the December 18<sup>th</sup> Minutes. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to approve travel requests as submitted. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve the disbursements listed below. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

DISBURSEMENTS THROUGH JANUARY 5, 2018  
BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018 APPROVED AND PAID  
FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT

CHK #	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	CHK AMT
52901	Kentwood Springs	Drinking Water	\$ 182.56
52902	AGJ Systems & Networks, Inc.	Computer Services	6,871.00
52903	Barefield Workplace Solutions, Inc.	Office Supplies	119.98
52904	B.E.A.R.	Repair Shed 50 Lift Station	4,291.50
52905	Boot Outlet, LLC	Employee Work Boots	179.95
52906	Cable One, Inc.	Cable Services	105.80
52907	CDW Government	Office Supplies	114.50
52908	Sun Coast Business Supply	Office Supplies	151.72
52909	Jonathan Daniels	Business Expense	34.86
52910	State School Insurance Fund	Employee Deductions	15,050.34
52911	Emerald TC, LLC	Accounting Software Support	92.50
52912	faircountmediagroup	Advertising US Navy Seabees 75th Anniversary	3,500.00
52913	Federal Express Corp.	Express Mail Service	144.08
52914	Foliage Design Systems, Inc.	Interior Plant Maintenance	253.78
52915	Fuelman	Fuel for MSPA Vehicles	522.79
52916	Grainger, Inc.	Maintenance and Repair Supplies	1,626.50
52917	Great Southern Club	Monthly Dues and Business Expenses	164.16
52918	Guardian	Employee Deductions	1,663.46
52919	Hancock County Chamber of Comm.	Membership Dues	510.00
52920	Harbor Square Parking Garage	Quarterly Parking for Employees	3,622.65
52921	Harrison County Tax Collector	2017 Property Taxes - North Port Properties	4,834.83
52922	L.L. Bean, Inc.	Shirts for Employees and Marketing Purposes	688.54
52923	MS Economic Council	Membership Dues	402.63
52924	MS Dept. of Human Services CRDU	Employee Deductions	156.00
52925	MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Comm.	Membership Dues	375.00

52926	MS Pub. Employees Credit Union	Employee Deductions	320.00
52927	MS State Tax Commission	Employee Deductions	7,416.00
52928	Neopost	Postage Meter Update	179.00
52929	Ports America, Inc.	Draying Dole Containers	20,066.05
52930	Legal Shield	Employee Deductions	30.91
52931	Ray Weaver	Shed 50 Exterior Sewer Repairs	87,460.00
52932	Raycom TV Broadcasting, Inc.	Advertising	510.00
52933	RJ Young Company, Inc.	Copiers/Printers Maintenance Agreements	1,688.07
52934	Rose Office Systems, Inc.	Construction Trailer Rentals	3,031.00
52935	Sam's Wholesale	Office Supplies	99.80
52936	Southern Printing & Silkscreen	Monogram Employee Uniforms	42.00
52937	Southern Admin. and Benefits	Monthly Service Fee	200.00
52938	Stewart Sneed Hewes, Inc.	Flood Ins. Warehouse #3/ Public Officials Bond	32,926.00
52939	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	Security Guard Services	57,729.49
52940	Vision Service Plan	Employee Deductions	131.90
52941	Waste Management	Waste Removal Services	582.90
52942	The Whit Group, LLC	Web Hosting Fees	120.00

CHECKS DATED 12/21/17 AND RELEASED PRIOR TO SCHEDULED CHECK RUN

52899	MS Pub. Employees Credit Union	Employee Deductions	320.00
52900	Gary Pitcovich	Tuition Reimbursement	1,050.00

TRANSFERS

12/18/17	Ms Department of Revenue	November Sales Tax Payment	12,357.52
12/22/17	Deferred Compensation	Employee Deductions	990.00
12/22/17	Federal Tax Deposit	Payroll Tax Deposit	23,550.98
01/05/18	Deferred Compensation	Employee Deductions	990.00
01/05/18	Federal Tax Deposit	Payroll Tax Deposit	26,833.54
Total			<u>\$ 324,284.29</u>

FINAL CHECKLIST FOR JANUARY 25, 2018

BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018 APPROVED AND PAID  
FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT

CHK#	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	CHK AMT
52954	American Assoc. of Port Auth.	Registration Fees	1,390.00
52955	Kentwood Springs	Drinking Water	163.11
52956	AFLAC	Employee Deductions	1,376.96
52957	Kim Aguillard	Business Expense	258.56
52958	AirGas Gulf States	Oxygen Cylinder Rental	43.47
52959	Anytime Portables, LLC	Portable Restroom Services	2,075.00
52961	Cable One, Inc.	Cable Services	105.80
52962	Card Services	Travel Expenses	2,643.31
52963	Card Services	Travel Expenses	1,455.51
52964	Card Services	Business Expenses	262.16
52965	Chancellor, Inc.	Electrical Supplies	6,986.00
52966	City of Gulfport	Water	21,812.10
52967	Conway Data, Inc.	Advertising	5,600.00
52968	C Spire Wireless	Radio/Cell Phone Services	1,393.04
52969	State School Insurance Fund	Employee Deductions	15,050.34
52971	Emerald TC, LLC	Accounting Software Conversion Services	487.50
52972	Federal Express Corp.	Express Mail Services	111.07
52973	Foliage Design Systems, Inc.	Interior Plant Maintenance	253.78
52974	Fuelman	Fuel for MSPA Vehicles	488.34
52975	Grainger, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	3,457.89
52976	Guardian	Employee Dental Deductions	1,697.31

52977	Gulf Coast Business Supply, Inc.	Office Supplies	6.73
52978	Gulf Coast Business Council	Sponsorship	500.00
52979	Gulfport Business Club	Membership Dues	25.00
52980	Hancock Bank	March Lease 14th Floor	23,168.31
52981	Hancock Bank	Employee Badges	30.00
52982	HRdirect	Employment Posters	157.98
52983	Kalmar USA, Inc.	Repair Parts for STS Crane Spreader	2,174.15
52984	Robert J. Knesal	Per Diem	40.00
52985	Lowe's Home Center, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	127.05
52986	MS Dept. of Human Services CRDU	Employee Deductions	156.00
52987	MS Power Company	Electricity	79,343.94
52988	MS Pub. Employees Credit Union	Employee Deductions	320.00
52989	MS State Tax Commission	Employee Deductions	7,151.00
52990	NAACP Gulfport	Sponsorship	500.00
52991	Jack Norris	Per Diem	40.00
52992	Pass Road Mini Storage, LLC	Rental on Storage Unit	150.00
52993	Ports America, Inc.	Drying Dole Containers	27,906.92
52994	Legal Shield	Employee Deductions	30.91
52995	Kim Purchner	Travel Expense	222.90
52996	Redd Pest Solutions	Pest Control Services	90.00
52997	Eluse J. Roberts	Per Diem and Travel Expense	327.37
52998	Rose Office Systems, Inc.	Property Taxes on Trailer Rentals	2,731.91
52999	Shred-It USA, LLC	Shredding Services	68.21
53000	Norma Jean Soroe	Transcription Fees	489.48
53001	Southern Printing & Silkscreen	Logos on Rain Jackets	30.00
53002	The Sun Herald	Advertising for Section 3 Workshop	2,080.00
53003	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	Security Guard Services	28,801.00
53004	United Way of South MS, Inc.	Employee Deductions	440.52
53005	Vacuum Truck Sales & Service, LLC	Street Sweeper	240,495.00
53006	Vulcan Materials Finance Co.	Limestone for Maintenance Repairs	733.04
CHECKS DATED 01/09/18 AND RELEASED PRIOR TO SCHEDULED CHECK RUN			
52943	Shapley's Restaurant	Gulf Coast Legislative Reception Dinner	1,560.00
52944	DeeDee Wood	Travel Expenses	226.49
CHECKS DATED 01/12/18 AND RELEASED PRIOR TO SCHEDULED CHECK RUN			
52945	Kim Aguiillard	Travel Expenses	109.44
52946	Carlos Bell	Travel Expenses	183.12
52947	Jonathan Daniels	Gulf Coast Legislative Reception Dinner	2,653.80
52948	DeeDee Wood	Travel Expenses	113.07
CHECK DATED 01/16/18 AND RELEASED PRIOR TO SCHEDULED CHECK RUN			
52949	Matthew Wypyski	Travel Expenses	275.93
CHECK DATED 01/19/18 AND RELEASED PRIOR TO SCHEDULED CHECK RUN			
52950	Jonathan Daniels	Travel Expenses	198.79
52951	MS Dept OF Human Services CRD	Employee Deductions	156.00
52952	MS Pub Employees Credit Union	Employee Deductions	320.00
52953	Matthew Wypyski	Travel Expenses	903.10
TRANSFERS			
1/17/18	MS Department of Revenue	December Sales Tax Payment	10,943.28
1/18/18	Deferred Compensation	Employee Deductions	990.00
1/24/18	Federal Tax Deposit	Payroll Tax Deposit	26,573.14
1/24/18	Public Employment Retirement	Retirement Match and Withheld	50,362.07
BILL APPROVED AND PAID FROM THE EARNINGS FUND			
1/25/18	Treasurer - State of MS	Port Improvement Bond	71,958.75
Total			\$ 652,975.65

Commissioner Rester moved to approve the Port User Licenses, pending receipt of all fees and insurance documents. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

RENEWAL LICENSES:

Vendors: Midstream Fuel Service; Americas Escort Service; Aztec Maritime Services, Inc.

NEW LICENSES:

Vendors: Snider Tire, Inc.

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Commissioner Rester moved to approve the following progress payments: Balch & Bingham (\$77,652.57); BMA, Inc. (\$40,993.71); and Digital Engineering (\$34,690.50). Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to approve Cash Request #196 – Anchor (\$5,668.69); Atkins (\$61,890.91; Atwell & Gent (\$65,167.47); CH2MHill (\$163,258.49); Michael Baker (\$9,735.20); MSPA (\$83,843.90); Neel Schaffer (\$107,500.18); RFB, LLC (\$5,100.00); QES (\$35,130.50); and Wharton Smith (\$583,384.34) for a sub-total of \$1,120,679.68. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve Cash Request #197 – J.O. Collins (\$837,660.37) and Necaize Brothers (\$3,061,877.85) for a total of \$3,899,538.22. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to approve Cash Request #198 to YAJV for \$175,369.00. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to approve Cash Request #199 to Travelers as Surety for \$743,298.51. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

*Commissioner Knesal left the meeting for the following items:*

Commissioner Rester moved to approve payment of \$33,526.50 to Eley, Guild Hardy, which was included in RFC #196, totaling \$1,154,206.18. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

*Commissioner Knesal returned to the meeting.*

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rester moved to approve the following items for closeout and de-obligation of funds. Task orders are complete and all work has been completed and accepted:

Amendment 6 to Task Order 4 with QES, Inc. under Contract No. 010-HUD-003 de-obligates \$19,710.16 for Construction Materials Testing.

Amendment 2 to Task Order 22 with Anchor QEA under Contract No. 010-HUD-011 de-obligates \$209,656.28 for sampling plans for the Turning Basin and West Pier Expansion activities.

Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve Amendment 3 to Task Order 39 with Neel Schaffer under Contract No. 010-HUD-001. Amendment 3 increases costs by \$79,832.00 with no change in schedule. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve Amendment 7 to Task Order 14 with Thompson Engineering under Contract No. 010-HUD-002. Amendment 7 adds 90 days and is retroactive to December 31, 2017. There is no change to costs or schedule. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to approve Amendment 1 to Task Order 17 with QES, Inc. under Contract No. 010-HUD-003. Amendment 1 adds 162 days and is retroactive to January 19, 2018. There is no change to costs. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve Amendment 1 to Task Order 9 with Michael Baker, Jr. under Contract No. 010-HUD-010. Amendment 1 adds 81 days and increases costs by \$8,940.52. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve Amendment 1 to Task Order 21 with Atwell & Gent under Contract No. 010-HUD-013. Amendment 1 adds 140 days and is retroactive to January 11, 2018. There is no change in cost. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to approve Modification 4 to Contract No. 013-EN-02 with BMA. Six months is being added to the contract, establishing the new completion date of June 30, 2018 with no additional funding. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mark McDaniel with Roy Anderson addressed the Commission on their request for payment for General Liability Insurance on the bulk handling facility.

Commissioner Roberts tabled the payment request issue, the modification and Notice of Completion for the bulk plant facility until the Commission could discuss with legal counsel. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve a Notice of Completion with Prism Systems, Inc. under Contract NO. 015-EN-01 for the Control Systems Package for the Ilmenite Facility. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to approve Change Order No. 3 to Necaise Brothers under Contract No. 017-HUD-037. Change Order 3 has an increase of \$7,000.00 with no change in schedule. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Roberts move to approve Change Order No. 2 to J.O. Collins under Contract No. 017-HUD-042. Change Order 2 has an increase of \$6,198.38 with no change in schedule. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to approve Change Order No. 2 to WC Fore Trucking under Contract No. 017-HUD-041. Change Order 2 has a decrease of \$79,007.63 to the contract with no change in schedule. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Roberts move to approve Change Order No. 13 to Necaise Brothers under Contract No. 016-HUD-033. Change Order 13 has an increase of \$25,317.28 with no change in schedule. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve Work Order No. 4 with Digital Engineering under Contract No. 17-EN-04. Work Order 4 has a not to exceed amount of \$243,887.00 and is for the development of a preliminary engineering study for a proposed new freezer facility. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve Work Order No. 5 with Digital Engineering under Contract No. 17-EN-04 for engineering services for the design and construction of an approximate 10-acre laydown type area on the North Port property site. Work Order 4 has a not to exceed amount of \$565,835.00. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve Task Order No. 15 with Volkert under Contract No. 010-HUD-007 for environmental consulting services to prepare a permit application and wetland delineation for the North Port Project. Task Order 15 has duration of 150 days and a not to exceed amount of \$40,275.92. Commissioner Rester seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to approve Task Order No. 26 with Anchor QEA, LLC under Contract No. 010-HUD-011 to initiate the Mitigation Plan Implementation. Task Order 26 has duration of 120 days with a not to exceed amount of \$73,700.00. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester moved to authorize the designation of DeeDee Wood as the Applicant Agent for Hurricane Nate (4350 DR MS). Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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PORT RESTORATION UPDATE:

Nick Foto, Deputy Program Manager gave a status update on current projects.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

Matthew Wypyski, Chief Operating Officer, reported on the annual maritime activity:

Vessels	329		Vehicles	204,840
Tugs	262		Railcar Count	11,101
Barges	278		TEU's	216,683
			Tonnage (short tons)	2,533,137

The vessel count and the TEU count increased 31% over 2016. The railcar count increased 45% while the tonnage increase was 28%. All stakeholders were commended for their participation in these great numbers.

The dredge boat seen in the Sound started about 3 weeks ago and about 1/3 complete. They should be finished in late March or early April.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Director Daniels and CFO DeeDee Wood were in Jackson this week to go over our FY19LBO budget with the House and Senate. The meetings went very well and even

though we had record increases this past year, we were very conservative with our numbers and they don't reflect the numbers for the completion of the restoration.

We are very happy to report that Commissioner E.J. Roberts has been reappointed for another 5-year term. He has completed one year of that term and we are delighted to have him for another four years.

Jamie Miller, the new Chief Innovation Officer of MDA was introduced and welcomed. Overview of the MSPA is one of Jamie's many duties. We are all excited for this opportunity of working with Jamie.

We recently had a visit from representatives of the 155<sup>th</sup> National Guard Unit. Brigade movements are expected to increase in 2018. They gave us great reviews from the first mission.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S COMMENTS:

Ben Stone mentioned his appreciation of being able to work with the port and also sent congratulations to Jamie Miller.

MDA'S COMMENTS:

Philip Carter also welcomed Jamie Miller and is looking forward to a successful completion of the Restoration Project.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Rester commented on the long-standing relationship the port has had with MDA, regardless of the Governor or the Port Director and is excited to work with Jamie Miller.

Commissioner Knesal was glad to see Jamie Miller in his new post because his help is needed sometimes with contract issues.

Commissioner Roberts commented that he also looks forward to working with Jamie.

Commissioner Simpson thanked Jamie for being in attendance today – there is a lot of stress completing this project this year and he is grateful to MDA. He thanked Mark McDaniel and his YAJV group. He also thanked Gov. Bryant and the legislators that are watching out for the port with any upcoming legislation. Commissioner Simpson commented on a letter (attached) he received from the Seaman's Center regarding a location for their building. Commissioner Simpson wanted it on record that this item will be taken under advisement and be discussed at a near-future Board Meeting.

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Commissioner Rester moved to close the meeting to discuss the need for an Executive Session. Commissioner Simpson explained that a second is not required to close the meeting.

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Back in open session, Commissioner Rester moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss 2 legal matters - litigation with SIC and a contract matter with YAJV. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

(THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 9:40 A.M.)

Commissioner Roberts moved to come out of executive session and return to open meeting. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.



The Commission re-entered open session and Commissioner Simpson noted that no action was taken during executive session.

Commissioner Knesal moved to remove tabled items 8I (YAJV Modification 5) and 8J (YAJV Notice of Completion) and place back on the agenda. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to modify Contract No. 14-EN-07 with YAJV to clarify and allow for payment to be made for General Liability Insurance. Commissioner Norris seconded. After much discussion, Commissioner Norris called for the question. The motion failed with the Commissioners voting as follows:

Commissioner Knesal	Affirmative
Commissioner Norris	Affirmative
Commissioner Rester	Negative
Commissioner Roberts	Negative
Commissioner Simpson	Negative

Commissioner Rester moved to approve Modification No. 5 to Contract No. 014-EN-07 with YAJV. Modification No. 5 reduces the contract by \$419,403.78 and results in a final contract cost of \$7,379,206.22. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion passed with the Commissioners voting as follows:

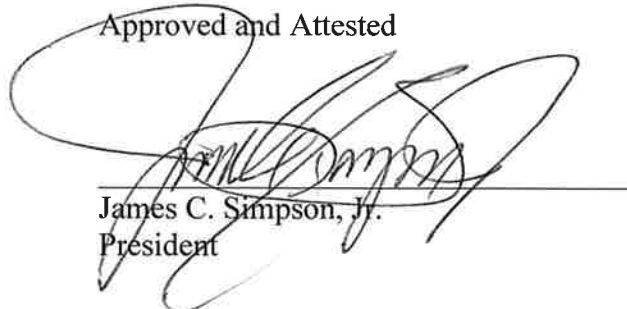
Commissioner Knesal	Negative
Commissioner Norris	Affirmative
Commissioner Rester	Affirmative
Commissioner Roberts	Affirmative
Commissioner Simpson	Affirmative

Commissioner Rester moved to approve a Notice of Completion to YAJV under Contract No. 14-EN-07. to Contract No. 014-EN-07 with YAJV. The project has been successfully completed and the facility is fully functional as intended. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Roberts moved to adjourn. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.

Approved and Attested

  
James C. Simpson, Jr.  
President

  
Jack Norris  
Secretary



Gulfport, MS

Center for Int'l Seamen & Truckers  
PO Box 1964  
Gulfport, MS 39502

Chris O'Brien, Director  
228.868.2525  
iscgulfportms@gmail.com

January 22, 2018

Mr. James C. Simpson, Jr., President  
Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners  
24600 Oak Island Drive  
Pass Christian, MS. 39571

Dear Mr. Simpson,

The Board of *The Center for International Seamen & Truckers* approved the following resolution at its quarterly meeting on January 16, 2018:

*The Center for International Seamen & Truckers humbly requests the MS Port Authority Commission to formally approve the concept of a new Seamen Center facility to be placed on the Port. Furthermore, we ask the Commission, to commit to a definite timeline for it to be completed no later than March 1, 2019.*

As you know, the *Center for International Seamen & Truckers* facility was destroyed by Katrina along with most facilities on the Port in 2005. Up until that point, the Seamen Center had been ministering to seamen and truckers in many and varied ways that were very beneficial to them. Many of our churches were represented by volunteers serving these men over the years. The Center has been supported financially by the Biloxi Diocese, the Gulf Coast Baptist Association and the Methodist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian Churches in the area. The facility on the port was very important to these supporters.

In 2013 the Port Authority staff presented architectural drawings of a proposed facility to our board. However, sadly, this plan was abandoned when this proposal was found to be unworkable.

Since then, regrettably, no definite plans to re-establish our facility have been presented. Moreover, our ministry to these seamen continues to suffer, and our funds continue to deplete. Since church volunteers are unable, for the most part, to participate in the ministry as before, churches are decreasing their funding. Soon our ministry will no longer be fiscally viable. We need to know whether:

- (1) The Port Commission will allow us to build a facility on the Port, or
- (2) The Port Commission will determine to place a facility on the Port for us, and
- (3) The Port Commission will determine a definite timeline for this project.

Based on the Port Commission's decision, we will determine whether to continue or discontinue our ministry to the seamen all together.

Thank you in advance for giving this proposal your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Mr. Rhett Hamiter, chairman

Copied: Mr. Jonathan Daniels

Mr. John Rester  
Mr. Jack Norris

Mr. Bobby Knesal  
Mr. E.J. Roberts