

Jackson/Union Regional Port District Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2023 6:00 PM
Alto Pass Community Center, Elm Street, Alto Pass, IL

Call to Order

(6:25pm)

Present: Basden, Beckman, Cissell, Ikner, Pitts, Smithey

Also Present: Andrew Erbes

Approval of Minutes

Pitts commented that the past few meetings had been unofficial and informational only, therefore there were no minutes to vote on. The Jackson County Administrator commented that if the notes from those meetings could be emailed to the Jackson County Board office, they could be typed for the Port District members to keep on file. Pitts agreed and noted that it would be completed.

Communication

The Jackson County Administrator commented that this item was on the agenda in case items came through the Jackson County Board office that needed to be relayed to the Port District members.

New Business

VII. 2023-632 Future Meeting Dates

This item was moved up on the agenda. The Port District had a discussion regarding future meeting dates. They tossed around dates and times for their meetings in 2024. It was agreed to leave the meetings on the first Monday of the month, except for January 2024, which would be moved to the 3rd due to the New Year holiday.

Old Business

I. 2023-626 Port Bank Account

The Port District members had a discussion regarding opening a bank account with Southern Bank in Murphysboro and needing funds to open an account. Cissell commented that she had spoken with Jackson County Board member Nel Battrell. Basden made a suggestion to request funding in the amount of \$5K from the Jackson County Finance Meeting. If approved, this funding would help start a bank account for the Port District.

II. 2023-627 Port SAM Number

This item was discussed by the Port District members, but it was noted that to obtain the SAM number, a bank account would need to be opened first. Cissell commented that the Port District

already had an EIN number. The members continued the discussion and decided to make the fiscal year for the Port District the same as Union County and Jackson County which would be December 1st through November 30th. The Jackson County Administrator also commented that she would be happy to assist in filling out the SAMS application.

III. 2023-628 Feasibility Study/Planning Grants

Cissell commented that the first thing the Port District would need to do before applying for grants would be to perform a feasibility study to understand their strengths and weaknesses. The group discussed other grant options and what other local port districts have done. Cissell continued the discussion and commented that in the near future, she would like to see the group take a photo and have their picture in the local newspapers to inform citizens that the Port District exists and maybe a brief write-up of what they may be working on for Jackson and Union County. She also commented that the Port District could have guest speakers in the future.

IV. 2023-629 Alto Bike Trail

V. 2023-630 Insurance

The Port District members discussed the difference between Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance and Errors and Omissions (E&O) insurance. It was noted that D&O protects high-level decision makers when someone asserts they were negligent in their duties as an officer or board member. E&O, on the other hand, covers acts, errors, and omissions committed by employees of the company. E&O focuses heavily on the products and services that a business offers, while the other is strongly meant for management decisions only. The Jackson County Administrator commented that she felt the Port District could apply for the lesser insurance, but that as time went on, and they began applying for larger grants, they would need to increase the amount of liability coverage due to larger responsibility of funding dollars.

VI. 2023-631 Attorney

Pitts discussed that he was working with Rhett Barke and John Foley as possible attorneys for the Port District. He noted that once the Port District had funding he would reach out to see who was available.

It was also noted that Paulette Curkin resigned her position and, since she was appointed by the Governor of Illinois, he would have to make the next appointment. Ikner commented that the Ohio River Coalition could be beneficial in helping the Port District with grant funding.

Executive Session

Adjourn

(7:15pm)

A motion was made by Cissell, seconded by Basden, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.