

Jackson/Union Regional Port District Meeting
Monday, September 30, 2024 6:00 PM
Alto Pass Community Center

Call to Order

(6:00pm)

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

Also Present: Brian Chapman, Gene Turk, Deb Barnett

Approval of Minutes

I. 2024-799 Approval of August 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Colombo, seconded by Basden, to approve the August 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communication

II. 2024-800 IDOT & MARAD Port Grant Workshop

Cissell updated the Port on the workshop and what was involved. Pitts asked if anyone was interested in going. It was decided that no one would attend this year.

III. 2024-801 October Port District Meeting Date

After a brief discussion, the Port members decided not to have an October meeting, and reconvene on Monday, November 4th, at their normal time.

Treasurer's Report

No new information for the current month.

Old Business

IV. 2024-802 Insurance

Cissell commented that she checked with a few insurance agencies, noting that the Port needed errors and omissions insurance. She asked if the Port would like the agencies to come and speak with the Port at a future meeting. Colombo suggested the group get quotes on paper to compare options before making any decisions.

V. 2024-803 Attorney

Basden introduced Mr. Turk and asked him to give the group some background information and what he could do for the Port. Pitts questioned what the cost would be to have Turk on retainer for the Port District. Turk handed out a rate sheet for the members to review. Pitts commented that the floor was open for discussion. Turk answered questions concerning future bonds.

Cissell questioned the timeframe of when Mr. Turk's services would need to begin. Chapman commented that the airport was not ready to work with the Port district just yet, so the need for bonding should be put on hold temporarily. Turk reminded the group that discussing the need to hire an attorney should probably be done in an executive session.

VI. 2024-804 By-Laws

Chapman provided an updated document with changes that were discussed at last month's meeting in Red. Chapman asked the members to either go ahead and vote to approve the changes or wait until they had an attorney who could review the changes before making them final. The members discussed the two options and decided to wait until an attorney could review them. Cissell and others wanted to review the proposed changes; Pitts asked if everyone was in agreement to table the item until the next meeting.

VII. 2024-805 Airport Follow-Up

Chapman agreed to reach out to Alyssa at the airport to see if there was any update. Pitts commented that he was eager to work on the project.

New Business

Deb Barnett, Executive Director of SI Now, gave some background information on SI Now and what they were doing for a regional approach to economic development in the southern region of Illinois, especially with port districts. She talked about Corn Belt Ports conversations and how they were able to come together as a collaborative group for their federal tonnage reporting, which moved them up the list and rankings for federal money and allowed them more opportunities than they would have had reporting individually. One goal of SI Now is to replicate the Corn Belt Port idea of collaboration throughout the region to help with economic development. Barnett discussed the annual Corn Belt Ports & Illinois Rural Ports Meeting and the upcoming OneShawnee regional summit that anyone on a Port district could attend if they were interested. Handouts were provided for the group and are located in the updated meeting packet. Cissell asked Barnett to give an update on the Cairo Port District.

Cissell provided an update on the grant for the feasibility study that was done in conjunction with Greater Egypt. The group discussed what the feasibility would do for the Port District and how they could interpret and use the data.

Pitts commented that he would like another section, "Other Business", on future agendas so the group can discuss other items. Basden and Chapman suggested amending the DRAFT by-laws to include it in that document as well.

Executive Session

(7:08pm)

Pitts announced that the group would be going into Executive Session under 2 (c) 1 of the Illinois Open Meetings act to discuss personnel.

Adjourn

(7:25pm)

A motion was made by Basden, seconded by Smithey, to adjourn the meeting. The motion

carried by unanimous vote.