PORT OF GALVESTON
REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION AND 
TRUSTEES ACTION

MINUTES

PREPARED BY: Angelina Ramirez Secretary, Board of Trustees June 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Minutes – Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves held Tuesday, May 26, 2020

BACKGROUND: Attached are the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves held Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Port staff respectively requests Board approval of the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves held Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rodger Rees, Port Director/CEO

DATE ACTION TAKEN:

Approved: __________ Motion By: ______________________
Disapproved: __________ Seconded By: ______________________
Deferred To: __________ Unanimous: Yes ______ No ______
Incorporated into Minutes: __________ By: ______________________
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves
Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves held Tuesday, May 26, 2020, in the offices of the Port of Galveston on the 8th Floor of the Shearn Moody Plaza, 123 Rosenberg, Galveston, Texas.

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves was held virtual and televised live on the Port of Galveston’s website.

Chairman Shannon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

The Secretary to the Board called roll.

Presiding Officer: Albert P. Shannon, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Present: Chairman Albert P. Shannon
Trustee Craig Brown
Trustee Harry D. Maxwell, Jr.
Trustee Todd P. Sullivan

Vice Chair Elizabeth Beeton
Trustee Richard DeVries
Trustee E. L. “Ted” O’Rourke

Others: Rodger Rees
Mark Murchison
Laum Camcioglu
Jeffery Thomas
Cristina Galego

Anthony P. Brown
Julio DeLeon
Brett Milutin
Angie Ramirez
David Cowen

Chairman Shannon declared a quorum of the Trustees present.

The Board and Staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Shannon called for the declaration of conflicts of interest on today’s agenda items. Trustee Sullivan declared conflicts under DRC Emergency Services, Callan Marine, and Texas International Terminals.

Chairman Shannon called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves held Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Trustee Maxwell moved for approval. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sullivan and unanimously carried.

Chairman Shannon noted there was nothing listed under Presentations and Announcements for consideration at today’s meeting.
Chairman Shannon called for comments from the public. Mr. Brown, the Port’s Attorney, announced that the Port had received two comments from the Port’s online system, stating that both comments relate to pending investigations going on at the Port. One is a by-party of an investigation, and one is the attorney of a by-party investigation. Mr. Brown’s recommendation was not to read the comments aloud at today’s meeting. Trustee O’Rourke questioned if he can speak during public comments. Mr. Brown stated no, that he didn’t believe so. Trustee O’Rourke questioned that if it wasn’t pertaining to him, then he would be able to speak, correct, and stating that a Board member can speak at any time under public comment. Mr. Brown again stated no, that he didn’t believe that was so. Mr. Brown stated that comments for Trustees are at the end of the meeting. Trustee O’Rourke questioned Mr. Brown, asking if he was sure that Trustees cannot speak during public comments. Trustee Sullivan stated that he has spoken before the Board on specific items on the agenda. Trustee Brown stated that at time, but it is rare, Council has spoken during public comments. Vice Chairman Beeton questioned how you would address the Open Meetings Act if it’s not listed as an agenda item. Noting a series of Trustees could then speak directly about any item that wasn’t on the agenda. After debate on whether a Trustee could speak during public comments, Chairman Shannon deferred to legal counsel. Mr. Brown stated that he would check into the issue, but in the meantime, it should not happen.

Chairman Shannon stated that the Trustees already went over the CFO Report and Consent Agenda in great detail earlier in the Finance Committee meeting.

Chairman Shannon called for the Port Director’s Report.

The Port Director briefed the Trustees on the details of his report, noting financials, cargo and cruise statistics, lay dockage, and all other information that was provided to the Trustees in their briefing materials. After all comments and questions were heard and answered, Chairman Shannon thanked the Port Director for his report.

Chairman Shannon announced that the Trustees were going into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney, Section 551.072 – Real Estate and Section 551.087 – Economic Development Negotiation.

The time was 11:39 a.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Chairman Shannon convened the Executive Session at 11:39 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Chairman Shannon adjourned the Executive Session at 2:32 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Chairman Shannon reconvened the Regular Monthly Meeting at 2:41 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Chairman Shannon called for Business Items.

F.1 Discuss and Consider Addition of Addenda to the November and December 2019 Workshop Minutes: Vice Chairman Beeton asked the Trustees if they would consider adding an addendum with additional language to the December 2019 Workshop minutes in
order to correct a misstatement that was made about the Vice Chairman’s statement on an issue. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that she would move to amend the November 19, 2020 Workshop minutes to include the language from the two excerpts included in the Board packet, and made part of these minutes, and indicated that it was done pursuant to a decision to the Trustees today. Trustee Maxwell seconded the motion. Trustee O’Rourke stated that on the second page under [comments from Trustee O’Rourke on another topic, accusing Trustee Beeton] and stated that that was taken out of context, and stated that he never made those comments. What he said was, and you can listen to the tape, was that it’s no different between what she’s asking… I’m not saying that anything was done improper, but when I met with her husband, I did it no different than when I got in touch with Mike Nelson, or when he got in touch with me, there’s no different, and Trustee O’Rourke’s point was, he didn’t accuse anybody of doing anything improper. Trustee O’Rourke stated that that’s not what he said. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that she would take that part out, and put the three dots … and that will show some discussion that’s been adhered to. Trustee O’Rourke thanked Vice Chairman Beeton. Chairman Shannon questioned if that was okay with Vice Chairman Beeton. Vice Chairman Beeton was fine with taking out that portion of the addendum to the minutes. Mr. Brown clarified that there were two addendum excerpts, one from the November and one from the December meetings. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that they both relate to the same matter. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that if it’s added to December minutes, that will provide clarification. Trustee O’Rourke stated that that was just some commentary which he didn’t say. Mr. Brown stated that to clarify the motion, add the addendum to the December 17, 2019 Workshop Meeting Minutes. Vice Chairman Beeton showed Trustee Brown on the second page, the second to the last paragraph, what was being removed from the addendum. Vice Chairman Beeton explained to the Trustees that the comments that were made in December referring to the November meeting, where the Trustees couldn’t talk to the newspaper. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that she didn’t take that position. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that she said so in December, but Trustee O’Rourke challenged her saying... “Yes you did, go listen to the tape” you definitely said that. Then other comments were voiced. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that she would take those comments out, put …, and that will show where some part of discussion was skipped over. Vice Chairman Beeton clarified, that in reality, the Vice Chairman did not make the statements that the Trustees should not be able to talk to the media. Trustee Sullivan questioned if there was an adopted policy on media. Chairman Shannon stated yes. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that she is just trying to correct the record. Trustee O’Rourke stated that he understands what’s being said, but stated that, “you can’t have it both ways.” Trustee O’Rourke stated that you can have some Trustees that talk to the paper, and all Trustees can speak to the media when they want, but they can’t say that their representing the Board/Port. Trustee O’Rourke stated that the Chairman has done it, Vice Chairman Beeton has done it, and other people have done it, clarifying that they have commented to the paper. That’s not the point, the Chairman is the official spokesperson for the Board/Port. Trustee O’Rourke stated that he did as the Board requested, and last time he was approached by the news media, he referred him to the Port Director. Trustee O’Rourke concluded by saying that if there is a comment, just like after the last meeting, you are entitled to give your own option, and that’s not going to change. Motion carried with Trustee O’Rourke against the motion.

F.2 Discuss and Consider Clearing of Pelican Island: Mr. Thomas updated the Trustees on the clearing of Pelican Island. Mr. Thomas stated that they are wrapping up the
first contract, spending $50,000 so far. There are trees bigger than originally thought, so to proceed with the project the Port will need to get permits from the City to clear the other trees, and believes that the $100,000 should be enough to move forward. Trustee Brown questioned what kind of trees were on the property. Mr. Thomas stated that he couldn’t identify the names of the trees, but could find out. There are some concerns about the erosion, so the first thirty feet of the front water view was left to protect from erosion. After discussion amongst the Trustees, Trustee Brown stated he would personally leave it alone, then spend additional money clearing and cutting all of the trees out, which, if someone buys or leases the land they may want to do something else with it. Trustee O’Rourke stated that it’s a lot more attractive if it’s cleared out, because it’s an industrial area. Trustee O’Rourke asked if it would be possible to go and see it. Mr. Kees stated that he believes that it would be possible. Trustee Brown stated that he would just leave it alone and maintain it as is, now that you can get in there. Trustee O’Rourke stated that he doesn’t want anything to detract from the potential customer that may be looking at the property. Trustee Sullivan stated that Mr. Thomas could review the ordinance and verify what it says about the industrial zones, and that way when speaking about the development with potential customers the knowledge of capabilities will be there. Trustee Maxwell stated that in the meantime the cutting will stop, noting nothing over 10 inches will be cut. The Port Director questioned if the contract is done. Mr. Thomas replied yes, with one of two more work days this week. Trustee Sullivan suggested that before completion, that we have the contractors shape it so that it will drain properly, and get the ditching done. Trustee Brown suggested that Mr. Thomas reach out to Tim Tietjens at the City.

Chairman Shannon questioned if any action is needed on this agenda item. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that she put this on the agenda so the Trustees would understand where the project stood, only spending $50,000 on this project, and didn’t want the Port Director to get in trouble for not continuing to clear the property. Vice Chairman Beeton didn’t think any more action was needed as long as the Port Director understands the consensus to stop the clearing on Pelican Island. Chairman Shannon also included for Mr. Thomas to check with the City on permitting, and be prepared to explain this to anyone that expresses an interests in development. **Vice Chairman Beeton moved, with the second of Trustee Brown, to stop where we are, learn about what permits would be needed to take down additional vegetation, and be prepared to explain to that anyone who expresses and interest in the property. Motion unanimously carried.**

**F.3 Discuss and Consider Expense Report:** Vice Chairman Beeton stated that this was on the last agenda and suggested that it be an agenda item to debate what information is needed in the CFO’s report, as additional back-up behind the Expense Report each month. The Port Director stated that the Expense Report is in the briefing material each month, and what was in question was the back up behind the credit cards bills, and staff is looking for some direction on what the Board wants to see as back up behind the credit cards statements. Vice Chairman Beeton questioned what detail was provide in the report right now. Mr. Murchison stated that in the past staff provided extensive backup, as high as an inch of paperwork, showing duplication of supporting documentation. At one point, it was suggested to provide the cover sheets of the expense reports which list all of the expenses, but not show all of the receipts behind the reports after it was reviewed by staff. It just showed the summary receipt on the front page. Mr. Murchison stated that he just needs direction from
the Board on what and how much detail the Board would like to see behind the expense report. The Port Director stated that F.6 is a similar item, and Trustee O’Rourke stated that he would address this item now. Trustee O’Rourke stated that it states in the policy to provide all of the backup. Trustee O’Rourke stated that he has received some of the details that he has requested to see, and this is where he has some questions. Trustee O’Rourke stated that something stands out to him on the Port Director’s credit card, questioning charges from google, office supplies, and other charges going on to the Port Director’s card, and in Trustee O’Rourke’s opinion, those charges should be going through purchasing. Trustee O’Rourke questioned why these charges are going on the Port Director’s card. Trustee O’Rourke also questioned the points going on the Port Director’s credit card, stating that they are usually used to pay down the credit card. Mr. Murchison acknowledged that they usually are used to pay down the credit card. Trustee O’Rourke stated that he has some of the backup documentation to the credit card statement he is referring to, and some of the backup isn’t there questioning those items. Trustee O’Rourke stated that he would like to see the back up to those items. Mr. Murchison explained to the Trustees how the Port’s credit card points are used. After further discussion, Trustee O’Rourke stated that he would like the answers to his questions and to see the backup documentation for the Port’s credit cards and expense report. Trustee O’Rourke wants to know where the points of the credit card are being used. Trustee O’Rourke questioned Charley Palmers Steak House in Washington, and the Sheraton in Puerto Rico on the Port’s credit card. Mr. Murchison asked Trustee O’Rourke to send him the questions and he would be happy to pull the backup documentation. Trustee O’Rourke stated that now, just by asking the question, he is concerned that this will go to an open records request. Trustee O’Rourke stated that he is just asking for verification. Trustee Maxwell questioned if Trustee O’Rourke wants duplicate receipts behind both sets of documentation, the Port's credit card statements and expense reimbursement. Trustee O’Rourke stated yes, just like in the past. Trustee O’Rourke suggested putting it in an electronic form, so anyone can look at it. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that any Trustee who wants detailed information can just ask for it. It doesn’t have to be the whole Board sitting here for every little detail. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that there is no reason to be embarrassed asking for the documentation, going through the process that the Board was informed about today. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that the information the Board is receiving in their packet is adequate, nor does she think that the information should have to be duplicated from the expense report to the credit card. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that if someone has a question about it then Port staff can provide the expense report. Trustee O’Rourke stated that then don’t get mad when I ask for it. The Chairman stated that he agrees, but if there are numerous requests, then don’t get upset if it takes a while to receive. After extensive discussion on the Port’s credit card and expense reports, Vice Chairman Beeton stated that on this agenda item she is not requesting that anything be changed, and would not be making a motion on this item. No action was taken.

**F.4 Discuss and Consider Pier 14 Lay Down for Cargo Plan:** Trustee O’Rourke stated that he is satisfied with the discussion on Pier 14 during the Port Director’s Report, and allowed the Port Director to move forward as he sees fit. No action was taken.

**F.5 Discuss and Consider NetSuite Update:** Trustee O’Rourke stated that he was confused on Phase One and Phase Two, and would like to know how much the Port has really spent on NetSuite. Trustee O’Rourke stated that the Port is still using Resport and still using
ADP, and Trustee O’Rourke was concerned about the using the two vendors. The Port Director explained to Trustee O’Rourke the information that was provided to the Trustees in their notebooks, stating that it was best for the Port to use Rezport instead of moving the parking information to NetSuite. The Port Director stated that he plans to move away from ADP, and intends to move payroll into NetSuite, but due to a few delays we haven’t pulled the trigger yet. The Port Director affirmed that we will get there, we just haven’t gotten there yet. Trustee O’Rourke stated that he would like to read a paragraph that pertains to NetSuite. Trustee O’Rourke read the statement aloud, questioning if the Port is using two vendors, and questioning if the Port is spending more money using the two vendors. The Port Director stated that he can’t answer that question until he has more information. Trustee O’Rourke questioned what the dual software costs are. Trustee Maxwell stated that people buy software, and sometimes not every modular is used. Sometimes the inventory is not bad, sometimes the payroll is not what they wanted, and sometimes the reservation system may not be quite what they expected. Trustee O’Rourke stated that this was purchased to save money. Trustee Maxwell stated that that’s fine, but you also want something that works, and is reliable. If the Port doesn’t feel confident of going in-house with payroll in NetSuite, that’s what ADP is for. ADP is a Fortune 500 company for a reason, they furnish payroll to companies with thousands of employees. Trustee Maxwell stated that just because you have the software built in it doesn’t mean that you have to use it if you have something better or you don’t feel comfortable with it. Until the Port has the right personnel they will move forward with it. Chairman Shannon questioned how much of NetSuite is the Port using, and how much is it the Port doesn’t use that we thought would originally be used. The Port Director stated that we were going to use Harbor Mastery to handle the parking, that’s Rezport, and it was determined that Rezport has a lot more to offer. This was not looked into deeply before Julio came on at the Port. Julio looked at it in depth and found out that Rezport was a lot better system, and the numbers proved that. Trustee Sullivan questioned when you buy the package, if it is ala carte, or is everything included in the package. The Port Director stated that it’s a lot of things. It ties into the Harbor Mastery, which documents the ship’s movements, and the billing. Some of this was customized and some parts were already included, and this is the only accounting system that we operate at the Port. The whole contract is a million dollars, but you have to realize every year we have the renewal on the licensing requirements, which is the biggest piece of it, buying a four year license. Technically speaking, were spending about a quarter of million a year for four years to operate the system. Some customization has been done for the parking, and that stopped when we decided to stay with Rezport. The Port Director stated that the accounting system works fine. It is a software that allows you to add add-on’s. The Port Director stated that he is looking at a contract management system that would tie into the accounting system, and will bring that back to the Board if the Port Director chooses to add that to NetSuite. Mr. Rees continued to explain how NetSuite operates. Trustee DeVries questioned if the NetSuite package included the payroll module. Mr. Rees stated that it’s part of NetSuite by itself, and part of the accounting package. Mr. Murchison stated that additional packages were purchased, but the there were delays in 2019 that didn’t allow for the conversion. Now there are more delays with COVID-19, and the Accounting Department is short two people, and due to the hiring freeze, Mr. Murchison cannot move forward with the payroll into NetSuite. Trustee DeVries questioned if the Port was paying two people. Mr. Rees stated that it is part of the software cost. Chairman Shannon questioned if there was a motion. Trustee O’Rourke stated that this was just an update he had requested. After all questions were voice and
answered, Mr. Murchison stated that he eventually plans on moving payroll to NetSuite. *No action was taken on this item.*

**F.6 Discuss and Consider Travel and Entertainment Expenses Backup Documentation and Credit Card Expenditures and Points:** This item was discussed at the same time of item F.3. *No action is required on this item.*

**F.7 Discuss and Consider RCI Delinquent Accounts and Payment Agreement:** Chairman Shannon questioned if there is a motion for this item, or is it just to consider action or just for consideration. Trustee O’Rourke referred to the sheet provided to the Board in their packets. Trustee O’Rourke questioned the Less Billed for Tickets purchased after 4/30/2020, and was trying to figure out what the ($1,005,264.00) meant. Mr. Murchison explained the total paid passengers and rate per passenger to Trustee O’Rourke. Trustee Maxwell questioned if the date should reflect 2019, and not 2020. Mr. Murchison stated that that was correct, the date should be 2019. Trustee Brown questioned when the final payment will be received. Mr. Murchison stated that by the end of the year, or January 2021. The Port Director stated that, the last payment is scheduled in January 2021. Trustee O’Rourke questioned if that was a signed agreement or verbal agreement, Mr. Rees replied that was an amendment to the MOU. Mr. Murchison stated that he received it in an email from Royal Caribbean. Trustee O’Rourke stated that in the email it states, that we received the first additional head-tax payment January 22, 2020. Mr. Rees stated that that was Mr. O’Rourke’s question, “When did we receive the first payment”, and then Mr. O’Rourke’s second question was different from the first question, with the third question different from the first two questions, stating that Mr. Rees is answering Trustee O’Rourke’s questions as he is asking them. After all of Trustee O’Rourke’s questions were addressed, Chairman Shannon moved on to the next agenda item. *No action was taken on this agenda item.*

**F.8 Discuss and Consider Budget Amendment, Expenses, and Priorities:** Trustee O’Rourke stated that these items have already been addressed. *No action taken.*


Single Audit was not Required for 2019: Trustee Maxwell moved, with the second of Trustee Sullivan, to accept the Galveston Wharves Consolidated 2019 Financial Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). A Federal Single Audit was not required for 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

F.12 Consider and Approve Consulting Agreement Between the Board of Trustees and Teleforce, LLC for Security System Integration, Design, Management and Life Cycle Support for FY 19 Port Security Grant Implementation and Maintenance At a Cost Not to Exceed $1,194,500: Mr. Milutin briefed the Trustees on the Consulting Agreement between the Board of Trustees and Teleforce, LLC. Trustee O’Rourke moved to approve the agreement between the Board of Trustees and Teleforce, LLC for the Security System Integration, Design, Management and Life Cycle Support for FY 19 Port Security Grant Implementation and Maintenance at a Cost Not to Exceed $1,194,500. Trustee Brown seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Beeton questioned if the Port chose the projects and questioned if Teleforce was the administrator. Mr. Milutin stated yes. Vice Chairman Beeton questioned what were some of the other components. Mr. Milutin stated that the majority are maintenance, labor, certificates, spare parts, and maintaining the system currently being used. Vice Chairman Beeton questioned for how many years is this agreement. Mr. Milutin stated a three-year performance period, noting that the Port is a year into it now. Vice Chairman Beeton stated that basically the Port spends four hundred thousand dollars a year to maintain and operate the Port security system. Mr. Milutin stated yes, that that is correct, with the caveat that those funds are captured in the security surcharges. Mr. Brown clarified that the cost match is $298,000. Vice Chairman Beeton questioned if the whole project is $1.2 million, including the Port’s local match, but not exclusively the Port’s local match. Mr. Milutin stated that all of this is covered by surcharges and grants. Trustee Sullivan left the meeting before the vote was called. Motion unanimously carried.

Trustee Sullivan was not present for the remaining votes.

F.13 Discuss and Consider Adoption of the Texas Transportation Code and the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices: Mr. Campbell, the Director of Public Safety, briefed the Trustees on the Texas Transportation Code and the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. After Mr. Campbell’s presentation, Trustee DeVries moved to adopt the Texas Transportation Code Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Motion was seconded by Trustee O’Rourke and unanimously carried.

F.14 Discuss and Consider Proposal of and Approval of Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for Body Cam’s in the Amount of $100,808: Trustee O’Rourke moved to approve the contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for Body Cam’s in the Amount of $100,808. Motion was seconded by Trustee DeVries and unanimously carried.

F.15 Consider and Approve 6 Month Extension to Shuttle and Lot Attendant Contract with ABM Parking Services: Mr. DeLeon, Director of Mobility updated the Board on the 6-month extension to the shuttle and lot attendant contract with ABM Parking Services. Mr. DeLeon stated that after the 6 month extension thru December 31, 2020 ends, the Port will go out for bid. Trustee DeVries moved, with the second of Trustee Brown, to
approve the 6-Month Extension to the Shuttle and Lot Attendant Contract with ABM Parking Services. Motion unanimously carried.

F.16 Review Trustee Information Requests Procedures of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves: The Port Director briefed the Trustees in the Port Directors Report of these new procedures, and stated that this is a new procedure for Trustee Information Requests, and it is brought forth for information purposes. No action was taken.

Chairman Shannon called for comments from the Trustees.

Vice Chairman Becton stated that it was nice to be back and thanked Port staff. The Vice Chairman hoped that everything will work out safely now that the everyone has returned to the office.

Trustee DeVries stated another outstanding job by staff considering everything that is going on.

Trustee O’Rourke didn’t have any comments.

Trustee Brown stated that it was a good meeting today, and Trustee Brown is glad to be back, with the good discussions held today.

Trustee Maxwell stated that he was glad to be back.

Chairman Shannon stated it’s nice to be back and commended staff, and expressed that it’s too bad we had to go through the corona virus situation, and looking at CAFR and statements on the record, revenue was 51 million dollars last year vs. 43 million in 2018. Net Income was over 11 million in 2019, and 7 million in 2018. Last year was a phenomenal year, and it is attributed to staff, and felt that the Port will get back on track, it’s just a matter of hunkering down and getting with the program.

Chairman Shannon stated that the next Regular Monthly Meeting is June 23, 2020.

Chairman Shannon called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves stood adjourned at 4:16 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Angelina Ramirez, Secretary
Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves
PORT OF GALVESTON
REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION

BUSINESS ITEM

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider Addition of Addenda to the November and December 2019 Workshop Minutes

DISCUSSION: This item was placed on the agenda for discussion and approval by Trustee Beeton.

Excerpt from Trustee discussion on workshop agenda item D(5), November 19, 2019, “Consider Approval of Revisions to Policies Regulating Performance of Duties - Board of Trustees and Port Director of the Galveston Wharves (‘Board Management Policy’)"

Chairman Shannon: “Also, when it comes to discussion with the press or the media, I’d just restate what’s in this policy, back on page seven, ‘Relations with News Media: All communications with news media relating to official Board action should be handled by the Chairman of the Board or the Port Director, and not the individual Board members.’ That’s our policy now. I’d like to see that enforced a little bit more, instead of ‘should,’ ‘shall,’ replace the word ‘should’ with ‘shall.’”…

Trustee Beeton: “I can’t comment on those proposals because that’s the first time I’ve heard them.”

No action was taken by the trustees on the agenda item.

Excerpt from Trustee discussion on workshop agenda item D(4), December 17, 2019, “Discuss Policies Regulating Performance of Duties by Board of Trustees and Port Director of the Galveston Wharves (‘Board Management Policy’)"

Trustee O’Rourke: “But you sit here at the last board meeting, this is what really gets me, we sit here as a board, and Elizabeth basically says, ‘Hey, about the media, and I [Trustee O’Rourke] can’t talk to the newspaper.’ So I sit here, and she says, ‘Oh, from now on, Albert, you’re going to be the only person to speak, and you, Rodger, you’re going to be the only person to speak.’ This is exactly, ‘I’ll go to the tape, you said from now on, how it should be run, we can go to the tape, and we can listen to it.’

Trustee Beeton: “I didn’t say that.”

Trustee O’Rourke: “Yes, you did. Listen to it. You said the only people who should be speaking for this board -".

Trustee Beeton: “It’s irrelevant anyway, but I did not say it.”
Trustee O’Rourke: “It’s not irrelevant. But you did say that. And so here’s what I’m about to say. If that’s what you said - and that is what you said -“

[comments from Trustee O’Rourke on another topic, accusing Trustee Beeton of having improperly asked him to meet with her husband about the railroad]

Trustee O’Rourke: “But then all of a sudden, I get a call from the newspaper wanting me to comment on Royal Caribbean, and I will tell you this just like I told John Wayne Ferguson over there, ‘Call the port director.’ I had no comment. But I pick up the paper, and Elizabeth’s in there, Harry’s in there, everybody else is in there. But I did like I was asked, but that’s what gets me: You’re not going to just single me out to shut me up. It’s not ever going to happen. So if you want to take it, take it over to the FBI. Call whoever you want. I’m done with it. I’m done with it.”