

Public Comments Galveston Wharves Board – 7/27/2021

Trustees, please accept this email as a complaint about the port's lack of transparency.

See the screen shot below for the agenda topic **F12. Discuss and Consider Revisions to the Board Management Policy (Amount of Financial Limits Throughout the Policy)** provided in the board book on the port's website.

Notice that the Board Management policy with recommended changes is noticeably absent from the board book, and therefore the public cannot make intelligent comments except that the topic lacks ANY relevant information, and it violates the Board Management Policy currently under review which states, "All matters submitted to the Board for action should, absent extenuating circumstances, be in final form and substance. Any documentation to be presented to the Board for approval must be in possession of the Port Director by noon of the 10th day prior to the date of the meeting at which action is to be taken."

Unfortunately, this is just one example of failure to provide adequate information in the board book before policy changes are implemented.

What's the hurry and reasoning for last minute changes or withholding the policy for public and board review?

If one wants true transparency and public input, a policy of this magnitude that outlines performance duties of the board and port director should go to a committee or to the full board in a workshop. A governing document of this significance but without a major deadline impact should not be slammed dunked without careful consideration and assessment of changes, impacts, and reporting requirements.

Another topic that has absolutely no information: **F5. Discuss And Consider Directing Staff To Start The Steps Necessary In Securing An Emergency Line Of Credit Under The Provisions Of The Texas Government Code Section 1431.**

After researching and reading Government Code 1431, it does not appear that the port -unlike the city- has the authority to request an emergency line of credit. It is unclear due to the lack of documentation why an emergency line of credit would be needed at this time when it has not been needed in the history of the port (since 1940). The emergency line of credit has been added to a debt management policy proposed today that will be seen only once before approving.

It's bad management to disregard public policy and to consistently have incomplete information before a vote and I hope this problem is corrected instead of claiming repeated "extenuating circumstances" on non-crucial deadline topics.

Sincerely,

Charlotte O'Rourke

409-599-2506

cc: City Council

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**PORT OF GALVESTON  
REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION**

**BUSINESS ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Discuss and Consider Revisions to the Board Management Policy (Amount of Financial Limits Throughout the Policy)

**DISCUSSION:** This item was placed on the agenda for Trustee discussion and consideration.

Additional information will be distributed under separate cover.