

November 27, 2023
Hershey, Nebraska

Meeting of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors. Present was James Hawks, J. Patrick Keenan, Kirk Olson, Dwight Porter, Michael Steele, Kimberly Steger, and Kevin Tighe. Absent was Vince Dugan and LeAnn Ellis. Also in attendance were Chris Bruns, Tyler Volkmer, Gary Person and Tammy White and members in the audience. Vice-Chairman Keenan called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Keenan announced that the Open Meeting Act with amendments is posted for public review and Board of Directors will comply with the open meeting requirements.

Hawks moved to the approve the minutes of the October 23, 2023, meeting. Tighe seconded the motion. Present and voting aye: Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger, and Tighe. Nays, None. Motion carried.

Steele explained the need to apply for the Unique Entity ID number as it related to receiving and applying for federal funds.

Hawks moved to authorize Michael Steele to apply for the Unique Entity ID. Steger seconded the motion. Present and voting aye: Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger, and Tighe. Nays, None. Motion carried.

Discussion on adding signatories to all financial institutions in the event current authorized members are unavailable. The Board agreed to add the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer, and all current members of the Executive Committee as authorized signatories.

Hawks moved to approve Resolution 2023-11 that states effective immediately, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and all current member of the Executive Committee shall have their names added as authorized signors on all accounts held by the Nebraska International Port of the Plains in any financial institution. Steger seconded the motion. Present and voting aye: Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger, and Tighe. Nays, None. Motion carried.

Discussion of possibly changing the date or cancelling the December meeting due to it falling on the Christmas holiday.

Hawks moved to cancel the December meeting due to it falling on the Christmas holiday. Porter seconded the motion. Present and voting aye: Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger, and Tighe. Nays, None. Motion carried.

Volkmer suggested that the Board request from the County Board that a suggested change be made to the resolution stating that the Inland Port Board does not need to meet monthly.

Bylaws:

Discussion and clarification of several items of the bylaws.

Hawks moved to approve the Bylaws of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains as submitted. Tighe seconded the motion. Present and voting aye: Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger, and Tighe. Nays, None. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee-Steele reported he has created a finance statement for distribution and a budget that will need to be reviewed and approved at a future meeting. Discussed changing or adopting a fiscal year to be same as calendar year. Volkmer stated it could probably be done

since the port was not a taxing entity that falls under the County. The Board also need to figure out what the mailing address would be as the mail has been returned to senders. The new checks have the facility address on them. Those items will be placed on January's agenda.

Facilities Committee-Logo contest-Steele reported he will know more at next meeting as the instructor stated she would know how many students would participate.

Executive Committee-bylaws were created and reviewed for the full board to review and approve.

Update from Development Corporation:

Gary Person stated that the Chamber is moving forward with the 5 options to buy totaling 240 acres for the railpark. He will be working with the Village of Hershey to annex in the property and declaring blight and substandard. There will be an announcement next week of a business that could lead to a larger project.

Gary stated that the spur has been deactivated and that a business will need to apply with the UPRR to reactivate the spur. Porter can assist with getting the spur reactivated. Porter also mentioned a possible revenue producing potential for the port. Setting up an area to store railcars. It is needed at this time as storage is limited. The Board would need to discuss this with the attorney.

New Business

Bruns stated that Wednesday there is an invite only transportation stakeholders meeting to discuss and brainstorm the possibilities for some grant funding for multimodel transportation projects.

Keenan adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Advance notice and agenda for the November 27, 2023, inland port board meetings were sent to the Inland Port Board members and all others requesting the same. Advance public notice (includes agenda) of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors meeting was posted at the Lincoln County Courthouse, City Hall, Village of Hershey and the Lincoln County website on November 21st, 2023, and was also emailed to the media on November 21st, 2023.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday January 22, 2024, will be kept continually current and open for inspection at the office of the Lincoln County Board Assistant. The regular meeting of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors will be at the port's headquarters facility in the board room at 18610 W Highway 30, Hershey, NE 69143 at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Tammy White
County Board Assistant