

February 26, 2024

Meeting of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors. Present were Vince Dugan, James Hawks, Kirk Olson, Dwight Porter, Michael Steele, Kimberly Steger, and Kevin Tighe. Absent was J. Patrick Keenan and LeAnn Ellis. Chairman Dugan called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Dugan 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 approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024, meeting. Steele seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger and Tighe. "Nays"none. Motion carried.

Discussion on hiring a consultant. Dugan stated he talked to Paul Hentshke with Transystems. This is the firm currently working with the Chamber. Paul provided an On Call Consulting and Conceptual Planning Support Agreement for the Board to review. Transystems has extensive experience with railroads and inland ports. Board discussed items in the contract and the need to designate a client representative. Discussion from the Board on the fees which Transystems would work against a fee of \$75,000. Tighe asked if the Board attorney had reviewed. Board agreed that would be next step. Dugan suggested approving the contract pending approval from the attorney. Olson agreed basic contract and just a few things need cleaned up.

Steele moved to approve the contract pending review and approval from the Board's attorney, authorize Vince Dugan to be the client representative and authorize Dugan to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. Olson seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger and Tighe. "Nays"none. Motion carried.

Steele reported the grant application has been submitted and a couple more items are needed to complete the application at the request of the DED. Acceptance of the award will be continued to the March meeting.

Discussion of guidelines for the funds disbursements. Finance committee will meet this month and bring back purchasing procedures at the March meeting for the Board's review and approval.

Gary Pearson provided a legislative update on LB164. Amendment has been introduced and will include the change of contiguous project to the airport under 15 miles. The push to allow up to 8 inland ports in Nebraska has been stopped and will remain at 5.

Finance Committee Report: Steele provided financial report to the Board for review. As part of the grant application a timeline needed to be included and was presented to the Board. DED allowed application of \$5million as the limit of asking.

Steger moved to approve the financial report. Porter seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger and Tighe. "Nays"none. Motion carried.

Facilities Report: Discussion of the logo contest and who would be included as allowed to participate. Facilities Committee will meet and bring back some particulars for the contest at the

March meeting. It was also discussed with warmer weather coming that discussion will need to be had on grounds maintenance at the facility.

Dugan moved to approve the Facilities Report. Olson seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays”none. Motion carried.

Executive Committee Report:

Committee met and reviewed the consultant information in preparation of present to the Board. Porter mentioned income opportunity for the port as possible storage of railcars. The spur would need to be activated. There is a high demand for storage of cars. Porter will pursue further and report back to the board with recommendations.

Hawks moved to accept the Executive Committee Report. Olson seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays”none. Motion carried.

Gary Person with the Development Corporation provided an update. The Director of DED visited the railpark. Currently purchasing 34 acres and it is with the title company and ironing out some technical issues.

New Business:

Chuck and Karen Lukas of Hershey were present and requested to ask questions. They were concerned with the lagoon placement as they live in the Betts addition and have trouble with the water table already. Bruns explained the lagoon would be south of the tracks.

Tyler Volkmer reviewed Open Meetings Act items as a reminder for the Board. All guests that talk must sign in, state their name and address. There is to be no discussion regarding agenda items prior to the meeting. There must always be a copy of the open meetings act in the room of which Tammy said there is a copy at the table in the room for public review.

Olson moved to adjourn. Steele seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Hawks, Olson, Porter, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays”none. Motion carried.

Advance notice and agenda for the February 26, 2024, 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 February 22, 2024, and was also emailed to the media on February 22, 2024.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday March 25, 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 Trego/Dugan Aviation, FNBO, 2nd Floor, 201 N Dewey, North Platte, NE at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Tammy White

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