

April 22, 2024

Meeting of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors. Present were Vince Dugan, LeAnn Ellis, James Hawks, J. Patrick Keenan, Kirk Olson, Michael Steele, Kimberly Steger, and Kevin Tighe. Absent was Dwight Porter. 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 February 26, 2024, meeting. Steele seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried.

Discussion on accepting the award from the site and building development fund sub account. Steele stated that the Board should not need to officially accept these funds as the Board adopted the Resolution 2024-01 at the February meeting. Steele is reviewing the grant and waiting for further instructions on how to receive the funds as the State is still updating the website. Dugan moved to authorize Steele to pursue and receive the grant funds and place those funds in the designated bank account as soon as possible. Ellis seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried.

Dugan moved to authorize Steele and Tighe to explore RFP possibilities regarding the best bank interest and investment opportunities for the funds. Ellis seconded the motion. Hawks stated that typically the funds may have to remain in the bank account for ease of accounting and auditing purposes and to minimize the risk. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried.

Purchasing guidelines

Steele provided a copy of the County’s purchasing guidelines. He’d like the Board to review and since the Board does not have to comply statutorily, the guidelines could be edited to best suit the Port’s needs. Steele does recommend adopting guidelines and include surplus disposal. Dugan suggested the finance committee review and suggest changes to the County Purchasing Act that would best assist the inland port. Tighe stated he would consider asking the consultant for guidelines. Board agreed.

Legal representation

Dugan has been emailing the Kansas City Consultant in an attempt to clarify the fees. He stated he was frustrated with the process as it has been slow. Dugan is not completely satisfied with the suggested changes and is requesting a few more items spelled out. He is asking for a precise financial commitment since the port will be using public funds.

Tighe and Steele discussed the possible need of contracting with a local attorney that could review contracts, attend meetings as needed, advise on open meeting requirements, etc. The RFP would need to include specific requirements. Board agreed to the need of local legal representation.

Steger moved to appoint Hawks, Dugan and Olson to the Committee to establish requirements for RFP for a local attorney. Keenan seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Steele reviewed the financials. He stated a PO BOX has been opened. The Post office box number is 1797.

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

Facilities:

Hawks has talked with Holly Carlini and would like to have a logo contest the month of May and open it up to graphic artists in the community. The designs would be displayed and voted on during the week of Nebraskaland Days. The Board agreed and thought that it was a good idea and would help promote the Inland Port.

Dugan moved to approve the facilities committee report. Steele seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried.

Executive: Committee executed the documents for funding, working with the consultants on the contract review.

Site visits-Board will continue until next meeting to review with consultant.

Work session-Board will continue to next month to seek advice from consultant.

Legislative Update-Bruns updated the Board that LB164 passed and was good for Lincoln County and the port authority. Limited the number of ports in Nebraska to 5, added additional funding, and expanded the noncontiguous area to 15 miles and will allow the airport into the inland port district. He stated the County Commissioners will need to modify the inland port resolution.

Update from Development Corporation- Gary recommended a closed session.

Steger moved to enter into closed session at 3:00 p.m. with respect to pending or imminent litigation, or real estate purchase. Keenan seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried

Chairman Dugan restated the motion for closed session.

Steele moved to enter into open session at 3:45 p.m. Ellis seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Olson, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried

Chairman asked the Board members, Tyler Volkmer, Chris Bruns, Micaela Wuehler and Gary Person to attend.

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

Advance notice and agenda for the April 22, 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 April 17, 2024, and was also emailed to the media on April 17, 2024.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday May 21, 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
Lincoln County Board Assistant