

December 16, 2024

Meeting of the Nebraska International Port of the Plains Board of Directors. Present were Vince Dugan, LeAnn Ellis, James Hawks, J. Patrick Keenan, Dwight Porter, Michael Steele, Kimberly Steger and Kevin Tighe. Absent was Kirk Olson. Chair 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.

Election of Officer:

Steger nominated Vince Dugan for Chairperson.

Ellis nominated Jim Hawks for Chairperson.

Roll call vote: Dugan-Dugan, Ellis-Hawks, Hawks-Hawks, Keenan-Dugan, Olson-absent, Porter-Dugan, Steele-Hawks, Steger-Dugan, Tighe-Hawks.

Chair Dugan called for 2 additional separate votes: Vote did not change. Dugan-4, Hawks-4. Hawks moved to conduct a special meeting that all members could be present for to elect officers. Keenan seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steger and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried. Tammy will arrange.

Hawks moved to approve the minutes from October 28, 2024. Ellis seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steger and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Porter moved to move annual appointments to the next regular scheduled meeting. Steger seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steger and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Hawks stated he'd recommend the Treasurer be part of the Executive Committee. The Board agreed.

Steele presented a draft budget for 2025. Board had discussion and agreed to review with modifications and approve at the next meeting.

Finance Report: Steele presented the finance report. Hawks moved to approve the finance report. Keenan seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steger and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Facilities Report: Ellis stated that she would like to see more communication between the committees in relation to the facility. The Board agreed. Discussion on following the County Purchasing Act. Dugan will ask for a written opinion from the attorney on protocol. The Board has not adopted the County Purchasing Act.

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

Executive Committee: Dugan stated he has been working with Transystems regarding the plan for 4 tracks and modifying it due to budget restraints. The Board discussed different scenarios.

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

Discussion of the Transload Development Design Proposal and agreement to terms and conditions. The Board discussed modifying the plan to include 2 tracks rather than all 4 due to budget restraints but also to include the dirt work for all 4 tracks. Hawks stated the dirt work would plan for drainage and expansion of the project. Steele suggested using alternates for the expansion or additions of the project. Board discussion the need to ask for additional funding once this part of the project is bid.

Keenan moved to approve the Proposal to include the dirtwork for 4 drop and pull tracks, include 2 tracks and authorize the Chair to sign. Hawks seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried.

The Board will table proceeding with getting bids for concrete for the building.

Update from Development Corporation

Person asked and wanted to verify that the 4 tracks would fit in the railroad right of way. The Chamber does not own the adjoining property and will not be able to bleed onto that property it will need to stay in the railroad right of way. There is 400 designated acres to the Railpark. Once the design is put out to bid, potential customers will be notified and identified. Board asked about clarification of ownership of the building. Bruns stated a meeting was held with DED and waiting to hear and execute the ownership transfer.

Public Comment: No public comment

Steel moved to adjourn at 3:45 p.m.. Porter seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steele, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried.

Advance notice and agenda for the December 16, 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 December 12, 2024, and was also emailed to the media on December 12, 2024.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday January 27, 2025, 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 Lincoln County Commissioner’s Room, Lincoln County Courthouse, 301 North Jeffers, North Platte, NE at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Tammy White