

April 28, 2025

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 Hawks called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

Steele moved to approve the minutes from March 31, 2025. Keenan seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steele, Steger and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Finance Committee: Steele stated the only activity is a bill from TranSystems for \$2600.00. Signatures have been updated at the bank.

Facilities Report: Hawks stated the facilities committee met with Joe Hewgley and Tyler Volkmer. Hewgley stated the County as owners of the property will be maintaining the property. Hewgley discussed a possible management structure lease with inland port. The Board of Commissioners will work with Tyler Volkmer and have documents ready for consideration at the next meeting.

Executive Committee: Hawks stated the RFP for legal services was in the Telegraph on April 12, April 19 and April 26, proposals are due May 10, 2025. The selection committee will review and bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

Hawks and Steele joined a meeting regarding US Department of Energy possible funding for inland ports for sustainable fuels. Hawks and Steele will review further if that could be an option for NIPP.

Hawks updated the Board about University of Nebraska meeting pertaining to innovation and possible funding opportunities for regenerative agriculture. Gary Person updated the Board that he is unsure of funding that is available at this time.

Noffsinger was unavailable-continued to future meeting.

The Board reviewed signage option for the Inland Port to replace the Greenbrier signage. Gary Person stated the Chamber would pay for the signage. Dugan moved to approve the proposal from Condon Signs for a cost of \$5,476.00 and to add Hershey Rail Park wording to the sign. Steele seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steele, Steger and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Steele left the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Public comment: none

Dugan moved to enter into closed session at 2:23 p.m. for the purpose of contract negotiations. Keenan seconded the motion. Present and voting "aye": Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steger and Tighe. "Nays" none. Motion carried.

Hawks stated the Board will enter into closed session for contract negotiations and asked the Board, Commissioners Bruns and Hewgley, Tyler Volkmer, Gary Person, Tammy White, and representatives of a potential business looking to site at the Hershey Rail Park to remain in the room.

Ellis moved to enter into open session at 2:56 p.m. Keenan seconded the motion. Present and voting “aye”: Dugan, Ellis, Hawks, Keenan, Porter, Steger and Tighe. “Nays” none. Motion carried.

No action after the closed session was taken.

Hawks adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Advance notice and agenda for the April 28, 2025, 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 25, 2025, and was also emailed to the media on April 25, 2025.

The agenda for the meetings to be held on Monday May 19, 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 18610 W Highway 30, Hershey, NE 69143 at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Tammy White