

NHPA Minutes Meeting 152 July 2, 2020  
held *virtually*

**Commissioners Virtually Present:** Patricia Drax, Treasurer; Jody Ortiz, Vice Chair  
John Abbagnaro; Giovanni Zinn, Chuck Mascola, Secretary

**Staff Present:** Maggie Targove, Judith Sheiffele, Kayla Wallace

**Public:** Marc Wallman, Attorney, Representative Al Paolillo

Vice Chair Jody Ortiz called the meeting to order at 5:42 PM

1. Minutes of the June 5<sup>th</sup> special meeting were approved. Commissioner Drax made a motion to accept and Commissioner Mascola seconded the motion. Board voted to approve.
2. New Business: Letters of Engagement from the two CPA firms came with the same amounts as last year. TM Bybee Co. (\$6,300) and Visconti & Associates (\$9,300). They were reviewed and the board agreed to employ the firms once again. Question was asked.... why the two firms? Mr. Visconti does the single audit that is required by the federal governments for project awards over \$750,000, which our ACOE dredging project is and TM Byxbee does the day to day. Commissioner Mascola made a motion to approve both engagements and it was seconded by Commissioner Abbagnaro. All voted in favor.
3. Financial; Treasurer Drax reviewed the bank statements and reports and found all to be in good financial order through May 31, 2020.
4. The proposed budget for 7/1/20-6/30/21, with the increase of payroll taxes, was unanimously approved. Commissioner Ortiz made a motion to accept the budget and seconded by Commissioner Mascola. All in favor.
5. Updates: CPA is close to hiring their new Executive Director and has hired a project manager in New London to run the wind energy project.
6. CMC: Ms. Sheiffele reported that Jim Dillman, Gateway, recently gave a presentation to CMC, on the grant proposal to federal Dept. of Transportation regarding the new rail line. Maggie will send the grant proposal to the Board members. Gateway hired a consultant to write this application.
7. Rail Grant: Commissioner Zinn reported that the Mayor and Alders were briefed on the grant and are in full support. In general, a wish for closer ties with port and City. He is looking forward to seeing the plans and
8. its design, including City right of way. He also noted that it may require site plan review. Ms. Sheiffele noted that there are A2 surveys on this property.
9. Old Business: ACOE Dredging Project: Ms. Sheiffele reviewed what she reported at the June meeting. The dredging project is on its way to the Asst. Secretary, including the waiver request, for approval. Then on to OPM, where the BCA will be determined. Then on to Congress. Hoping for the act to go through in October, 2020. Construction soonest would be the fall of 2022.

10. Having no public comment.....
11. A motion by Commissioner Ortiz was made and Commissioner Drax seconded to move into executive session to discuss strategy for Gateway licenses. A public discussion would impair a fair negotiation of the licenses. Commissioner Ortiz moved to invite Ms. Sheiffele, Al Paolillo, Jr, Kayla Wallace and Atty Marc Wallman into Executive Session. Commissioner Drax seconded and we entered at 6:02.
12. Staff were tasked with researching a fair and equitable amount to propose for licensing of parcels D & E. to Gateway. Atty Wallman noted that under Governor's Executive Order for telecommunication meetings, that items discussed need to be posted on the City website.
13. Commissioner Drax asked if I would inquire if a quorum would be met for the August meeting. Commissioner Ortiz made a motion to leave Executive session and Commission Drax seconded. Motion to adjourn from Commission Ortiz and Commissioner Drax seconded.
14. Meeting was adjourned at 6:25