

**MANATEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
PORT MANATEE INTERMODAL CENTER, THIRD FLOOR  
1905 Intermodal Circle  
Palmetto, Florida  
March 19, 2015**

Present were:

Carol Whitmore, Chairman  
Vanessa Baugh, First Vice-Chairman  
John Chappie, Second Vice-Chairman  
Charles B. Smith, Third Vice Chairman  
Betsy Benac  
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr.  
Robin DiSabatino

Also present were:

Carlos Buqueras, Executive Director  
Jennifer R. Cowan, Port Authority Attorney  
Dan Wolfson, Finance Director, representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court  
Robin Liberty, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of Circuit Court

Chairman Whitmore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**



The Invocation was delivered by Michael Alligood, Port Manatee Retiree, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA**

PA20150319DOC001

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

Members of the Audience introduced themselves.

**2. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**



Carlos Buqueras, Port Executive Director recognized Larry Caldwell, Certified Locomotive Engineer, retiring after 27-1/2 years of service, Gene Mayberry, Port Security Officer II, retiring after ten years of service, and, William Siele, Port Security Officer II, retiring after ten years of service.

Recognition of Don Campbell, Port Security Officer II, honoring his ten years of service was deferred to the next Port meeting.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**



There being no public comment, Chairman Whitmore closed Public Comment.

**3. PRESENTATION/KRIS STRYKER**




Kris Stryker, Senior Project Manager, Tampa Electric Company (TECO), utilized a slide presentation giving an overview of TECO; the progress, scale, and magnitude of the Polk Power Station expansion project; and, project benefits to Port Manatee.

Discussion ensued regarding emissions from the combustion turbines.

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**4. PRESENTATION/GEORGE ISIMINGER**

 George Isiminger, Senior Director of Planning, Engineering and Environmental Affairs, utilized a slide presentation to discuss updates to the Port Master Plan and addressed the latest plan prepared in 2009, Five-Year Chapter 163 Master Plan, Capital Improvements, strategic initiatives, Plan Update State Grant of \$150,000 (50/50 match), Plan Update Scope, and a Detailed Analysis of Private, Port-related Development.

Discussion occurred regarding public/private partnerships, meeting objectives, acquiring an expanded customer base, coordinating infrastructure with surrounding community, desire for greater control of the marketing process, using a pre-approved Port consultant, incorporate a freight mobility plan into the Master Plan, anticipated timeline to present the Plan, anticipated Plan cost, work with Karen Stewart, Economic Development Division Manager on a site selection consultant interested in working with the Port, what mechanism is in place to assure current technology is used, schedule a work session to discuss long-range plans and short-range opportunities, invite Metropolitan Planning Organization, Beall's Distribution and Tropicana representatives, Port connector road, plan for a regular, August Port meeting, followed by a work session with the consultant and representatives. PA20150319DOC004

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

PA20150319DOC005

 A motion was made by Member Baugh, seconded by Member DiSabatino, and carried 7 to 0, to approve the Consent Agenda, incorporating the language as stated in the recommended motions on the cover sheets for the Consent Agenda:

A. **WARRANT LIST**

Accepted the Warrant Listing from February 11, 2015, through March 11, 2015

PA20150319DOC0006


B. **MINUTES**

Approved the minutes of February 19, 2015

(End Consent Agenda)


**RECESS 10:28 A.M. – 10: 35 A.M.**

6. **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT/PORT AUTHORITY DIRECTOR**

 Jennifer Cowan, Port Authority Attorney, presented the Employment Agreement with Carlos Buqueras, Port Executive Director. The draft agreement includes the following, four changes and has an effective date of May 1, 2015, and to continue in effect for three years, until May 1, 2018:

- Base Salary increase of five percent to \$198,725;
- Future salary increases to be determined by performance, with an annual performance evaluation to be conducted in a public meeting in November;
- No change in the Administrative leave accrual rate, but an increase from 400 to 500 hours of roll-over time; and,
- Increase of two percent to Deferred Compensation contributions

Commissioner Baugh negotiated the Agreement with Port legal staff. The Agreement and five percent salary increase was researched in comparison with other Florida ports of similar size, as well as factoring the Port's revenues and operating expenses, and consideration of the employment tenure and accomplishments of Mr. Buqueras since being hired.

 Denise Stufflebeam, Business Administration and Finance Director, commented on adequate Port Cash flow; the last, across-the-board increase to all staff was September 2012; and, that Directors have not received increases from 2013 to present. The Port's overall,

financial position is to be examined in greater detail; the Port budget revenue is at accepted levels; and, the four percent increase for Directors will be examined.

A motion was made by Member Bustle, to execute the Employment Agreement with Carlos Buqueras for the term of May 1, 2015, through May 1, 2018, which shall supersede the previous Employment Agreement, and any amendment, to be the sole agreement between parties. The motion was seconded by Member Smith and carried 7-0.

Carlos Buqueras, Port Executive Director, thanked the Board for supporting his employment and performance.

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### CITIZENS' COMMENTS



There being no citizen comment, Chairman Whitmore closed Citizens' Comment.

### DIRECTOR COMMENTS



Carlos Buqueras, Port Executive Director, utilized a video clip showing the dedication ceremony of Berth 14 attended by Governor Rick Scott. The video clip will be posted to Port Manatee's website. (Further comments later in the meeting)

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### PORT AUTHORITY MEMBER COMMENTS



Member Whitmore

- Announced that Port members are traveling to Tallahassee to meet with and deliver a Port meeting bell to Governor Rick Scott, and to meet with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Boxold regarding recent issues with Port of Tampa and to discuss a recent article published in the American Shipper Magazine.

Last year, Port Manatee met with FDOT Secretary Prasad and the Port of Tampa to discuss how the Ports can work together regionally and develop joint marketing strategies; however, this has not occurred. Port Manatee had declared formal commitment to reach out to the Port of Tampa and Port of St. Petersburg before referring any new business to other Ports. The Port of St. Petersburg embraced the action plan, but the partnership did not transpire with the Port of Tampa. These issues are to be part of discussions in Tallahassee.

Member Smith

- Complimented Port staff on the Berth 14 dedication and attendance by Governor Scott

Member Bustle

- Echoed comments by Commissioner Whitmore
- Commented that Port Manatee is a regional Port and a great asset to surrounding communities. He suggested inviting the MPO to a Port meeting, followed by a tram tour and a luncheon.

Member Baugh

- Echoed Member Bustle's suggestion

(Additional Port Authority Member Comments later in the meeting)

### PORT VISITS BY TALLAHASSEE REPRESENTATIVES



As part of overall legislative strategy, Dave Sanford, Deputy Executive Director, has examined political interests and committee memberships in Tallahassee, specifically, key Legislators that would have vested interest in Port Manatee. Representative Rooney, House Transportation Committee toured the Port and verbally committed to help Port Manatee. Representatives' Passidomo and Edwards, and Senators Detert and Galvano also have direct interest in Port Manatee. Staff continues to pursue Senator Joinder to visit the Port. The new

Director of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority anticipates a visit to the Port.

**PORT AUTHORITY MEMBER COMMENTS**

Member Chappie

- Spoke on the need to stay involved in the mobility trade plan

**PORT MASTER PLAN**

A motion was made by Member Benac that we, the Port Authority, direct the County staff to work very closely on this infrastructure plan as we move forward with the Port Master Plan Update. The motion was seconded by Member Smith, with a request that this same action be taken to the County Commission.

Following discussion, Member Benac amended her motion to ask Port staff to work with the County staff in moving forward the master plan.

Following further discussion, Jennifer Cowan, Port Authority Attorney, framed the recommended motion:

“Direct Port Authority staff to work with the County on the Master Plan issue and, as the Port Authority, asking the Manatee County Commission to direct its staff to work with Port Authority staff on this issue.”

Member Benac so moved the recommended motion, Member Smith concurred, and the motion carried 7-0.

**DIRECTOR COMMENTS** (continued)

Carlos Buqueras, Port Executive Director, spoke about inviting a maritime property, real estate investment expert to work with County and Port staff, in a work session setting, to discuss the criteria used by Ports and to explain how Ports interface with private landowners.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Whitmore adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_