

Vinton, Louisiana
February 14, 2023

The President and Board of Commissioners of the Vinton Harbor and Terminal District met in regular session on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 1203 Horridge Street, Vinton, Louisiana, at 6:00 P.M. after full compliance with all requirements as to notice and otherwise in respect to convening of said meeting with the following members present:

Jerry Merchant, President
Haley Bellard, Commissioner
Charles Broussard, Commissioner
Steven L. Jennings, Commissioner
Alexis Morrow, Commissioner

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: David Bruchhaus, Attorney and John Veronie, Engineer

President Merchant called the meeting to order. Commissioner Jennings led in prayer and then followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Commissioner Bellard that minutes of prior meeting, copies of which were mailed to each commissioner be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bellard and carried

Bills for the month were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Bellard, seconded by Commissioner Broussard and carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Morrow and seconded by Commissioner Jennings that the financial statements for January 31, 2023, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MONTH ENDING January 31, 2023	
BALANCE FORWARD	\$578,328.25
RECIEPTS:	\$139,533.08
DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 16,042.76
BALANCE AS OF 01/31/2023	\$701,818.57

President Merchant updated the governing authority on the monthly activities of the Port.

Attorney Bruchhaus discussed the authority and fee agreement to represent the Port on claims arising out of oilfield contamination against any and all oil companies.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Bellard and seconded by Commissioner Jennings that the following Resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION OF THE VINTON HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Vinton Harbor and Terminal District does not have available to it the expertise or the resources needed to handle and fund litigation against various oil and gas companies for environmental contamination, damages, and remediation resulting from historical oil and gas exploration and production activities on land owned by Vinton Harbor and Terminal District in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that a real necessity exists that independent counsel be employed by the Vinton Harbor and Terminal District for the limited purpose of representing the Vinton Harbor and Terminal District by investigation and filing suit on behalf of Vinton Harbor and Terminal District against various oil and gas companies for environmental contamination, damages, and remediation resulting from historical oil and gas exploration and production activities on land owned by Vinton Harbor and Terminal District in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that MUDD, BRUCHHAUS and KEATING, L.L.C. and TALBOT CARMOUCHE and MARCELLO, attorneys practicing in Louisiana, be employed by the Vinton Harbor and Terminal District for the limited purpose of representing the Vinton Harbor and Terminal District by investigation and filing suit against various oil and gas companies for environmental contamination, damages, and remediation resulting from historical oil and gas exploration and production activities on land owned by Vinton Harbor and Terminal District in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that attorneys shall be compensated on a contingency fee of forty percent (40%), after deduction of expenses, of any amounts recovered by attorneys on behalf of the client whether in settlement, before trial, during trial, after trial, by judgment, or on appeal. This claim is not currently in litigation, and Vinton Harbor and Terminal District specifically authorizes Attorneys to undertake negotiations and/or file suit or institute legal proceedings necessary on its behalf. It is understood and agreed that this employment is upon a contingency fee basis and, if no recovery is made, Vinton Harbor and Terminal District will not be indebted to the Attorneys for any sum whatsoever as Attorney's Fees. In addition to paying Attorney's Fees, Vinton Harbor and Terminal District agrees to pay all costs and expenses in connection with Attorney's handling of this matter in the event of a recovery. Costs and expenses shall include deposition costs, federal express charges, private investigator fees, expert witness fees, court costs, sheriff's service costs, and jury costs. If no recovery is made, Client shall not be responsible for any litigation expenses.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Jeff Landry, Attorney General for the State of Louisiana, for his review and approval of this resolution all pursuant to R. S. 42:263.

The above resolution was introduced on February 14, 2023 by Commissioner Bellard, seconded by Jennings and the vote thereon was as follows:

<u>COMMISSIONER</u>	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Haley Bellard	X		
Charles Broussard	X		
Steven Jennings	X		
Jerry Merchant	X		
Alexis Morrow	X		

ATTEST:

Mudd, Bruchhaus and Keating, L.L.C.
Date: _____

Vinton Harbor and Terminal District
Date: February 15, 2023

Talbot Carmouche and Marcello
Date: _____

John Veronie, Engineer gave the monthly Engineer's report.

There being no further business to come before the Governing Authority, it was moved by Commissioner Jennings that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bellard and carried.

Jerry Merchant, President

Attest:

Mary O. Vice, Clerk