

City of Fort Smith  
Port Authority Meeting  
11:30 a.m. Thursday, November 1, 2018  
Port of Fort Smith  
200 Navy Road  
Fort Smith, Arkansas

MINUTES

The Fort Smith Port Authority scheduled its regular quarterly meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at the Port of Fort Smith, 200 Navy Road, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The meeting was called to order by Larry Combs, chairperson, at 11:40 a.m. and a quorum was noted present. Other Port Authority members present were Philip Doss, Dustin Collyge and Chad Lane. Eddie Norman absent and excused by motion of Mr. Doss, which was seconded by Mr. Lane and approved unanimously. Others present were Wesley Danial of Five Rivers Distribution and Jeff Dingman of the City of Fort Smith.

The minutes of the August 8, 2018 meeting and the September 20, 2018 special meeting were presented, and Mr. Lane moved approval. Mr. Doss seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Collyge reviewed the bank statements for the two Port Authority accounts for the months comprising the third quarter of 2018. It was noted that the balance of the operating account as of September 28, 2018 was \$33,833.25 and the balance of the grant account on that date was \$120,998.07. It was noted that the disbursements approved at the September 20 special meeting were not posted at the time these statements were issued, and that the grant account was currently at a balance of zero. There are currently no payments to ratify or outstanding bills to consider, and the Treasurer's Report was received.

Mr. Dingman noted previous discussion of the appointment of the Treasurer. Mr. Collyge suggested that such appointment be considered annually, that the position should not be in perpetuity. Mr. Collyge also indicated willingness to continue serving that capacity for the upcoming year. Mr. Doss moved to appoint Mr. Collyge as Treasurer for FY2019. Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Daniel provided the third quarter tonnage report for the Port of Van Buren and the Port of Fort Smith. The Port of Fort Smith moved 29326.65 net tons, the Port of Van Buren 53,347.19 net tons, with a total for the quarter of 82,673.84 net tons. Mr. Doss asked about the steady stream of scrap iron, compared to the relative spike in iron ore. Mr. Daniel said agreed that the scrap metal remains steady, and pointed out that the iron ore is usually delivered up the river twice per year, once in July/August and the other in November/December and that is the reason for the increased iron ore for those months. The material is stored for the customer until the customer gets it.

Mr. Daniel provided the Operator's Report. The new building is complete and in service, including the drop-in flood door that were not finished at the time of the Port Authority's last regular meeting. Noting the discussion on scrap metal, Mr. Daniel said the tonnage at the Port of Fort Smith should be about 3,000

tons per month, but the operator of the boat service that delivers barges up the Poteau River to the Port of Fort Smith sometimes cannot make the turn against the current of the Arkansas River if the current is too strong, so the barges have to wait at the Port of Van Buren until they can be delivered. Mr. Daniel said it's a matter of the horsepower onboard the operator's boat, which is too small for strong currents. Mr. Doss asked about the operator using a larger boat to which Mr. Daniel replied that they have done that, but sometimes rotate out equipment with different sized boats. All he can do is wait for when the barges can be delivered.

Mr. Combs asked if there are any issues with the new building, to which Mr. Daniel replied there are not and that they are glad to have the storage space. Mr. Lane asked about rental on storage space, to which Mr. Daniel said it varies depending on the material and how its stored, but is usually charged per ton per month. He said Mr. Shell or the Five Rivers office could provide more specific information about that part of the business. Mr. Doss also presented his own calculations as to the overall cost of the building project, noting that the Port Authority spent \$931,117 on the 30,000 square foot building project.

Mr. Doss asked if the property has room for another building. Mr. Daniel pointed out that the Port Authority property extends to the east along the railroad tracks, and there is room there to do something if needed, adding that they turn business away for lack of storage space.

On another item, Mr. Daniel reported that the skylights in the warehouse were leaking, which could present a problem for their steel coil customers, one of whom visited the property earlier today (it was raining & leaking). Mr. Daniel said that all of the skylights should get evaluated, and they likely just needed some weatherproofing maintenance. The Port Authority asked Mr. Daniel to work with Mr. Shell and identify the potential cost of repairs. Mr. Collyge moved approval of the tonnage and operator's reports. Mr. Lane seconded, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Although the grant funds from the Arkansas Waterways Commission for 2019 have already been received (and spent), the AWC has scheduled a photo op in Fort Smith at 2pm on Thursday, November 15 for a ceremonial check presentation to highlight the grant program. It was suggested that the photo be taken in front of the building built with grant funds. The event details will be confirmed.

The next regular meeting of the Port Authority will be scheduled for January 24, 2019. There being no further business before the body, the meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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Jeff Dingman  
Deputy City Administrator  
City of Fort Smith, Arkansas