

**MINUTES OF THE
LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2021**

PRESENT: Chair Wilma Heaton
Vice Chair Thomas Fierke
Commissioner David Francis
Commissioner Renee Lapeyrolerie
Commissioner Pat Meadowcroft

STAFF: Louis Capo – Executive Director
Daniel Hill – Director of Engineering and Operations
Bruce Martin – Airport Director
Madison Bonaventure – Assistant to the Executive Director/Board Secretary

ALSO

PRESENT: Gerard Metzger – Legal Counsel to the LMA
Michael Hixson – Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, P.L.L.C.
Anthony Marino – Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, P.L.L.C.
Kelvin Solco – Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, P.L.L.C.

The Airport Committee of the Lakefront Management Authority met on Tuesday January 26, 2021 virtually via Zoom. The Committee met after notice was posted and sent to the public and media. The meeting was livestreamed via the Lakefront Management Authority’s YouTube channel. All comments were accepted in writing up until the meeting start time pursuant to the agenda.

Chair Heaton called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M., and Vice Chair Fierke led in the pledge of allegiance.

Louis Capo, Executive Director, called the roll. All Committee members were in attendance, and there was a quorum.

Opening Comments:

Chair Heaton announced that the resolution authorizing the pursuit of funding for the design and construction of flood protection at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport was passed by the Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East (FPA) at their January meeting. She said the resolution authorized the agency to bond out up to \$75 million when matching federal dollars could be obtained.

Motion to Adopt Agenda:

A motion was offered by Commissioner Francis, seconded by Commissioner Meadowcroft, and unanimously approved, to adopt the agenda.

Public Comment:

None

Airport Director’s Report:

Bruce Martin, Airport Director, said staff’s focus had been on providing information to the FPA about the Airport for the design and construction of flood protection at the facility.

Mr. Martin said it was also an important objective for not only flood protection to be constructed but for proper drainage infrastructure to be included in the Airport's improvements as well. He said the Airport's drainage system needs to be upgraded and should include a pumping station. He said that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had decided to fund the project in one year as opposed to spreading the project out over five to six years. He said a Request for Qualifications had been issued to find a firm to design the project. Commissioner Fierke asked how much the project would cost. Mr. Martin said the project is estimated to cost \$14 million, and the project would be funded by the FAA (90%) and by LaDOTD (10%).

He said staff had been working on advancing the Runway 9-27 Decommissioning/Reclassification Project. He said that the project would be funded by the FAA (90%) and by LaDOTD (10%) in 2021. He said staff saw the opportunity to resolve safety issues and to create opportunities for development. He said that Daniel Hill, Director of Engineering and Operations, Director Capo, and himself scored the firms who responded.

He said staff was continuing to work to remedy the sinkhole repair on the ramp near the National Guard Hangar. He said after receiving feedback from the Board, Mr. Hill outlined additional specifications and solicited quotes again.

He added that about two weeks prior, a water pipe burst near the vicinity of the sinkhole in question. He said that excavation was necessary to stop the water from leaking to further prevent undermining of the subsurface infrastructure. He said to eliminate mobilization costs, staff recommended that they contract with the firm with the lowest quote to repair the pavement where excavation was performed near the sinkhole.

He said that LaDOTD awarded the LMA a grant to repair perimeter fencing that was damaged during Hurricane Zeta and was not covered by insurance. He thanked the agency for the award of the grant.

He said that Chris Henderson, Airport Manager, had coordinated with the State Fire Marshal's office for COVID-19 vaccination implementation. He said the Airport Terminal Conference Center would serve as a vaccination site for first responders the following day and had offered staff, with first responders as priority, the opportunity for vaccination.

Old Business:

1) Update on Messina's at the Terminal and the Runway Café.

Chair Heaton said that the Board had passed a resolution to allow the Runway Café to remain closed through January 5, 2021.

Mr. Martin said he had reached out to the proprietor after not hearing from him after January 6, 2021, and they had requested to extend the café's closure.

Vice Chair Fierke asked if the company had other locations and if they were open.

Mr. Martin said he was aware that they did have another catering company in Kenner, but he was unsure of the status of their operations.

Commissioner Francis inquired what criteria the company was using to justify the extension of their closure and if there were other factors to be considered other than the COVID-19 restrictions.

It was Chair Heaton's understanding that they believed the 25% seating capacity limit made profitability of the café difficult, although they continued to use the Terminal for outside catering jobs frequently. They did not reach out to LMA staff upon expiration of the closure, and there were concerns that the tenant and the LMA were not interpreting the lease the same way.

Commissioner Francis also expressed concerns about the tenant using the kitchen and not paying a percentage on sales.

It was Chair Heaton's understanding that they did not believe they owed the LMA a percentage of sales from catering sales versus restaurant sales.

2) **Motion to recommend approval of a contract with ROADWRXX, L.L.C. to perform a ramp repair near the National Guard Hangar for a price and sum not-to-exceed \$60,120.00.**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Fierke and was seconded by Commissioner Francis to recommend approval of a contract with ROADWRXX, L.L.C. to perform a ramp repair near the National Guard Hangar for a price and sum not-to-exceed \$60,120.00.

Mr. Martin said that after gaining feedback from the Board, Mr. Hill wrote specifications that were uniform and acceptable by the FAA and solicited quotes again.

Commissioner Francis left the meeting.

He said that ROADWRXX, L.L.C. submitted the lowest quote and was in good standing with the Secretary of State.

Commissioner Fierke inquired if the sinkhole repair should be deferred in order to fund the payment of the emergency mold prevention services needed at the National Guard Hangar.

Director Capo said there was enough funds to cover both issues.

Director Capo said that the firm may also need to repave an area where repaving was necessary.

Commissioner Francis reentered the meeting.

All were in favor. The motion carried.

New Business:

1) **Motion to recommend acceptance of LaDOTD Grant H.013697 for Perimeter Fence-Access Control Improvements**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Meadowcroft, seconded by Commissioner Fierke, and was unanimously approved to recommend acceptance of LaDOTD Grant H.013697 for Perimeter Fence-Access Control Improvements.

Chair Heaton thanked LaDOTD for working with staff to award the grant.

2) **Motion to recommend approval of payment in the amount of \$102,242.00 for emergency mold prevention services by Global Disaster Service, L.L.C. following storm roof damage caused by Hurricane Zeta and subsequent water intrusion caused by the significant rain event on November 25, 2020 at the National Guard Hangar to prevent complete loss of the facility.**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Fierke, seconded by Meadowcroft, and was unanimously approved to recommend approval of payment in the amount of \$102,242.00 for emergency mold prevention services by Global Disaster Service, L.L.C. following storm roof damage caused by Hurricane Zeta and subsequent water intrusion caused by the significant rain event on November 25, 2020 at the National Guard Hangar to prevent complete loss of the facility.

Mr. Martin explained that on November 25, 2020, a significant rain event occurred before the National Guard Hangar roof was sealed. He said staff had just received approval from the Board to do the work and contractors had not yet had the opportunity to seal it before the rain event. He said the rain poured in and created one to two feet of standing water in some locations of the building. He said that power had to be cut from the building due to the excessive amounts of water coming into the building and leaking through light fixtures, etc.

He said it was the opinion of Airport management that remedies needed to be deployed as soon as possible to prevent a total loss of the hangar.

Chair Heaton said staff had negotiated the costs down and added that the services were 24/7.

Mr. Martin said he requested and reviewed manhour reports and equipment reports and negotiated the costs down by about \$50,000.

Commissioner Meadowcroft asked if disaster relief moneys may be available.

Mr. Martin said it should be an insurance item, and the LMA needed to coordinate with the FPA regarding its deductibles.

Chair Heaton added that the challenge for staff was achieving the LMA's legal responsibility of mitigating damage under tight time constraints.

Vice Chair Fierke asked if the National Guard Hangar was fully rented to tenants. Mr. Martin said the entire bottom floor was rented.

3) Motion to recommend selection of an engineering firm to perform planning, engineering design, bidding, and construction administration services for the Runway 9-27 Decommissioning/Reclassification Project.

A motion was offered by Vice Chair Fierke, seconded by Commissioner Francis, and was unanimously approved to recommend selection of Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, P.L.L.C. to perform planning, engineering design, bidding, and construction administration services for the Runway 9-27 Decommissioning/Reclassification Project.

Mr. Martin explained that the FAA informed the LMA that it would fund the Runway 9-27 Decommissioning/Reclassification Project as an eligible Airport Improvement Program initiative. He said staff issued an RFQ for the project according to FAA standards. After receiving the responses, he, Mr. Hill, and Director Capo scored the firms. He said according to their scoring, Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, P.L.L.C. scored the highest, and they believed they would be a good fit for the project. Mr. Martin clarified that the firm had been recommended for the Runway 9-27 Decommissioning/Reclassification Project only at that time.

Chair Heaton confirmed that staff had coordinated with the FAA to concerning grant compliance.

Michael Hixson, of Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, P.L.L.C., introduced himself to the Committee. He said that his firm's team was enthusiastic about the potential opportunity to work with the New Orleans Lakefront Airport.

Chair Heaton said the selection of his firm was subject to the recommendation by the Committee and final approval by the Board.

Commissioner Lapeyrolerie inquired about the inclusion of pricing in the packet materials.

Mr. Hill clarified that a RFQ process does not include the solicitation of rates; however, once a firm is recommended or selected, the eligible grant recipient (the LMA in this case) must obtain pricing from the firm in order to receive the grant funds.

Commissioner Lapeyrolerie asked when the Scoring Committee met.

Mr. Hill said the Scoring Committee, comprised of himself, Mr. Martin, and Director Capo, met on January 8, 2021.

Gerard Metzger, Legal Counsel to the LMA, clarified that the resolution to approve the firm's selection would be predicated on the FAA's award of the grant to the LMA.

Director Capo said that the Board would then approve acceptance of the grant, and funds from the grant would be let once the LMA was ready to do the work.

Announcement of next Airport Committee Meeting:

1) Tuesday, February 9, 2021– 2:30 PM

Adjourn:

Commissioner Lapeyrolerie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Francis seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.