

**MINUTES OF
LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021**

PRESENT: Chair Sean Bruno
Vice Chair David Francis
Commissioner Stan Brien
Commissioner Anthony Richard

ABSENT: Commissioner Bob Romero

STAFF: Louis Capo – Executive Director
Madison Bonaventure– Board Secretary
Cynthia Grace– Finance Supervisor
David Martin – Director of Engineering and Operations

PUBLIC: Wilma Heaton– LMA Chair
Chris Fenner – Stuart Consulting Group, Inc.

The Finance Committee of the Lakefront Management Authority met on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport Terminal Conference Center located at 6001 Stars and Stripes Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70126. The Committee met after notice was posted and sent to the public and media.

Chair Bruno called the meeting to order at 4:50 PM and led in the pledge of allegiance. Director Capo called the roll, and a quorum was present.

Opening Comments: None

Motion to Adopt Agenda:

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

Motion to Approve Minutes:

A motion was offered by Commissioner Francis, seconded by Commissioner Richard, and unanimously adopted to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2021 meeting.

Public Comments: None

Director’s Report:

Director Capo said that finance staff was preparing for the audit, and the trial balance was due on July 15, 2021.

He advised that the LMA had received another \$110,000 in ad valorem tax revenue from the Flood Protection Authority (FPA) via the City of New Orleans. He explained that the LMA had only received approximately \$1.6 million of its budgeted \$1.99 million ad valorem tax revenue. He commented that he was not sure why there was such a large discrepancy. The Committee opined on why the collection may have been lower than what was budgeted. They asked if he had inquired with the FPA about a possible delay in remittance. Chair Bruno said that a definite answer may need to come from the City of New Orleans.

Commissioner Richard thanked Commissioners Bruno and Francis for meeting with members of the FPA Board. He mentioned that he spoke to his appointing authority, a state legislator, about the issue of non-payment of ad valorem tax revenue from the FPA to the LMA as well.

Director Capo introduced David Martin, Director of Engineering and Operations, to the Committee. He advised that Mr. Martin was a professional engineer with H. Davis Cole for about fifteen years and had experience in disaster management and public projects.

New Business:

- 1) **Motion to recommend an IDIQ Contract with Linfield, Hunter & Junius, GEC Inc., Design Engineering Inc., Batture Engineering, Richard C. Lambert Consultants, LLC, and Stuart Consulting Group, Inc. for professional engineering and architectural services on an “as needed” basis for no longer than one year with a total amount not-to-exceed \$75,000.00 per contract.**

Director Capo explained that IDIQ contracts would be expiring on June 30, 2021, and a year-long agreement would allow staff time to prepare an RFP to readvertise. Commissioner Richard confirmed that the LMA was not compelled to advertise for professional service at that time. Director Capo advised that the LMA was not obligated to advertise for professional services.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Richard, seconded by Vice Chair Francis, and was unanimously adopted to recommend an IDIQ Contract with Linfield, Hunter & Junius, GEC Inc., Design Engineering Inc., Batture Engineering, Richard C. Lambert Consultants, LLC, and Stuart Consulting Group, Inc. for professional engineering and architectural services on an “as needed” basis for no longer than one year with a total amount not-to-exceed \$75,000.00 per contract.

- 2) **Motion to recommend approval of an agreement with Stuart Consulting Group, Inc. to provide professional services for FEMA Public Assistance programs for hurricane damage claims and grant management services for a term of one year commencing on July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.**

Director Capo explained that the services Stuart Consulting Group, Inc. provided under this particular contract were for the closeout of FEMA claims for Hurricane Katrina. He advised that the original contract and subsequent renewals had been going on since 2010. He said the firm began with over 200 project worksheets for Hurricane Katrina claims, and they were down to approximately six to eight worksheets. He said the contract was for a term of one year, and their costs were reimbursable by FEMA as a direct administrative cost (DAC).

Chair Bruno said it was his understanding that FEMA has set a deadline of 2023 for claims for Hurricane Katrina to be settled. Staff acknowledged that it was their understanding as well.

Chris Fenner, of Stuart Consulting Group, Inc., explained that when restrooms and offices were constructed in some of the hangars following the storm, some were placed below base flood elevation. Originally, FEMA had no objection to this but FEMA's position changed so they are requesting that the LMA renovate those facilities to meet floodplain compliance. He advised that if the items were not corrected or if an alternative solution was not agreed upon, then the LMA may be responsible for paying \$18 million back to FEMA which is reflective of the costs allocated to some of the Airport's facilities following the disaster which were in noncompliance.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Richard, seconded by Vice Chair Francis, and was unanimously adopted to recommend approval of an agreement with Stuart Consulting Group, Inc. to provide professional services for FEMA Public Assistance programs for hurricane damage claims and grant management services for a term of one year commencing on July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

3) Motion to recommend amendment of the Professional Legal Services Contract with Gerard G. Metzger, A Professional Law Corporation, to increase the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 to a sum not-to-exceed \$165,000.00.

Director Capo said staff wanted to bring this issue to the Committee's attention, and the item had been presented and voted for recommendation at the earlier Legal Committee meeting. He explained that by the Board Meeting, staff will have precisely identified where the funds would be allocated from.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Richard, seconded by Commissioner Francis, and was unanimously adopted to recommend amendment of the Professional Legal Services Contract with Gerard G. Metzger, A Professional Law Corporation, to increase the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 to a sum not-to-exceed \$165,000.00.

4) Motion to recommend amendment of the Professional Legal Services Contract with David Jefferson Dye, L.L.C., to increase the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 to a sum not-to-exceed \$160,000.00.

Chair Bruno understood that the item was recommended by the Legal Committee as well. A motion was made by Chair Bruno, seconded by Vice Chair Francis, and was unanimously approved to recommend amendment of the Professional Legal Services Contract with David Jefferson Dye, L.L.C., to increase the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 to a sum not-to-exceed \$160,000.00.

5) Motion to recommend approval of the renewal of the Trash Pick-Up Service contracts for FY2022 for Lakeshore Drive (West End Drive to Seabrook Bridge), South Shore Harbor Marina, Orleans Marina, New Basin Canal, New Orleans Lakefront Airport, and Lakeshore Drive Special Event Pick-Up.

Director Capo explained that each contract was discussed at its relevant Committee and had been recommended by each. He further explained that the rate had not changed. Chair Bruno complimented EDS on their hard work.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Brien, was seconded by Commissioner Francis, and all were in favor to recommend approval of the renewal of the Trash Pick-Up Service contracts for FY2022 for Lakeshore Drive (West End Drive to Seabrook Bridge), South Shore Harbor Marina, Orleans Marina, New Basin Canal, New Orleans Lakefront Airport, and Lakeshore Drive Special Event Pick-Up.

6) Motion to recommend selection of The New Orleans Advocate as the Official Journal for publications as required under R.S. 43:171 for the Lakefront Management Authority.

Director Capo explained that the Advocate was the only qualifying publication as the Official Journal for a one-year term commencing on July 1, 2021. Vice Chair Francis asked about the rates they charged. Madison Bonaventure, Board Secretary, indicated some rates that the Advocate had recently charged for board proceedings. She offered that when each order is made, she reminds the Advocate staffers of the LMA's public status.

Vice Chair Francis instructed staff to confirm the rates with the publication to ensure the LMA was not being overcharged for its services.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Brien, seconded by Commissioner Richard, and was unanimously adopted to recommend selection of The New Orleans Advocate as the Official Journal for publications as required under R.S. 43:171 for the Lakefront Management Authority.

7) Discussion regarding the representations made by management in the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaires for the Lakefront Management Authority for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Director Capo explained that the Questionnaire was completed annually for the Legislative Audit, and the responses generally do not change year to year. The Committee discussed the questionnaire and indicated issues with pagination and other errors. Director Capo assured all errors would be remedied before they were presented to the Board.

Announcement of next Regular Finance Committee Meeting:

1) Thursday September 16, 2021– 4:30 P.M.

Adjourn:

A motion was offered by Vice Chair Francis, seconded by Commissioner Richard, and unanimously adopted, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.