

**MINUTES OF VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING NO. 2424
COMMISSIONERS OF
JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7**

Place: 3400 Hwy 73
Port Arthur, Texas

Date: August 6, 2024

Present: Commissioners
Richard Beaumont
James Gamble, Sr.
Matthew Vincent
Lester Champagne (Via Video Conference)
Phil Kelley, General Manager

Absent: Albert Moses, Jr.

Visitors: Allen Sims, DD7
Toby Davis, DD7
Garrett Boudoin, DD7
Barron Cook, DD7
Kirby Johnson, DD7
Brady Girouard, DD7
Dean Depew, DD7
Brian McZeal, DD7
Steve Walker, Doughtie Construction Co., Inc.
James Gabe, Select Maintenance, LLC
Doug Wright
Joey Choate

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Beaumont after ascertaining that the Notice of Meeting had been posted in accordance with the law.

Commissioner Vincent gave the invocation.

Minutes of Meeting No. 2423

The Minutes of Meeting No. 2423 was approved as read.

Open Bids and Consider Award of Bid for Box Culverts for the Future Rodair Gully Detention Pond Pump Station Discharge

Bids were opened and read as follows for the Box Culverts for the Future Rodair

Gully Detention Pond Pump Station Discharge:

Bidder	Bidder Info Form	Bid Proposal	Bid Amounts Present	Bid Bond
Doughtie Construction Co. Inc.	Yes	60 Days	\$221,332.00	Yes
Southern Sourcing Solutions LLC	Yes	60 Days	\$220,534.40	Yes

The District's Engineer, Toby Davis, requested that the bid award be tabled to allow time for review by staff and to award the bid at the next Board meeting. Commissioner Vincent moved to table the bids received for Box Culverts for the Future Rodair Gully Detention Pond Pump Station Discharge until the next Board meeting. Commissioner Gamble seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Pay Request No. 4 to Inland Environments for Asbestos Abatement/Demolition of Former Taft Elementary School

A recommendation letter was submitted by Barron Cook, P.E. for Pay Request No. 4 to Inland Environments Ltd. for the Asbestos Abatement/Demolition of the Former Taft Elementary School in the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Seven and 70/100 (\$22,187.70) Dollars. The Contractor requests payment less 10% retainage for the remaining demolition of the former Taft Elementary School building. The grading will be completed after the job site dries out. 100% of the work has been completed using 100% of the contract's working days. Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Pay Request No. 4 to Inland Environments Ltd. for the Asbestos Abatement/Demolition of the Former Taft Elementary School in the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Seven and 70/100 (\$22,187.70) Dollars. Commissioner Gamble seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Interest Payment from Debt Service Fund

Mr. Kelley stated the District received an invoice for an interest payment in the amount of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen Dollars and 75/100 (\$220,418.75) Dollars from the Debt Service Fund for the District's Maintenance Note debt. This is the September 2024 interest payment. Mr. Kelley stated that this maintenance note was used to pay for the new Alligator Annex Pump Station. Commissioner Gamble moved to approve the interest payment in the amount of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen and 75/100 (\$220,418.75) Dollars. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project Summary

Mr. Allen Sims stated that the bulk of progress has been administrative. Work began on the fronting protection at Pump Stations 16, 17, and 18. Project 4, which encompasses the area between Rosehill and Lakeside Pump Station, is out for bid. The bid award is expected in January 2025. The largest issue is the new models used to calculate the accepted height of the levee. In 2022, the USACE provided the District with results of a model used to calculate the required height of the levee. In 2023, the USACE revised the model due to errors discovered in the original topography. However, no one has addressed this issue since the errors were found. The District was informed that the 2023 model may increase the elevation of the levee by 2 to 3 feet. The District has requested a meeting with the USACE senior leadership to explain what led to this issue, what the implications are of the changes, and the path forward. Raising the elevation of the levee an additional 2 to 3 feet higher could be detrimental to the District. The District needs an explanation from the USACE before its meeting with headquarters in mid-

September. Lieutenant Colonel Ian O'Sullivan, who is over mega projects, stated that he thought the new models are wrong and that when checked and corrected they would only raise the elevation of the levee a couple of inches, not feet.

Manager Reports

Mr. Phil Kelley stated that Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham with the General Land Office (GLO) will be in Beaumont at the Jefferson County Courthouse Commissioner's Courtroom on Thursday to present the District with a check for CDBG-MIT projects in the amount of \$41,367,400.00.

Mr. Kelley stated that the \$156,079.75 reimbursement to ETP Crude LLC approved at the July 2, 2024, board meeting is being paid as an approval at this meeting.

Mr. Kelley stated that the District received the Tax Rate Worksheet from the Tax Assessor Collector's Office. Mr. Sims has compiled a spreadsheet comparing the District's current tax rate with potential tax rate scenarios for consideration. Mr. Sims stated that the District's overall taxable value went up slightly. If the tax rate remains the same, the District's budget will decrease by 1.9 million dollars. The most the District could increase the tax rate without an election is 3.5%. If the Board chooses to increase the tax rate by 3.5%, there is still a budget deficit of \$414,000. Mr. Sims stated that with the depository change made earlier this year, the District's Capital Funds Account will earn approximately 2 million dollars in interest which is set to be deposited back into the Capital Funds Account. The budget can be supplemented with the interest earned from the Capital Funds Account if needed. Mr. Kelley stated that the current budget still contains funds for special projects such as hazard mitigation detention pond projects; however, those funds will likely not be utilized during this fiscal year. The funds appropriated for

those line items will roll over to the next fiscal year. The approved cost of living adjustment increases the salary line item by approximately 1 million dollars. Mr. Kelley stated that with the tax revenue that the District collects this year and the remaining funds from the previous year, the District should not have any issues with not increasing the tax rate.

Permits

Enterprise Refined Products proposed 20" underground pipeline crossings at Lateral C-5. Mr. Garrett Boudoin recommended approval of the permit with a permit fee of \$550.00 and no bond required. Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Mr. Boudoin's recommendation. Commissioner Gamble seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Entergy Overhead Transmission Crossing of Rodair Gully, Humphries Ditch, and the County Jail Outfall. Mr. Garrett Boudoin recommended approval of the permit with a permit fee of \$770.00 and no bond required. Commissioner Vincent moved to approve Mr. Boudoin's recommendation. Commissioner Gamble seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Session - Consider and Take Action, if any, on Items Discussed in Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Checks & Purchase Orders

Maintenance Fund

Ck. No. 24826 – 4 Horn Industrial

\$999.20 – Light Tower & Equipment Rental – Vehicle Shed Project

Ck. No. 24827 – Albert Moses, Jr.

\$529.00 - Health Insurance Payment

Ck. No. 24828 – Alex Thibodeaux

\$237.00 – Webcast Course Reimbursement

Ck. No. 24829 – Cintas Corp.

\$165.00 – Traffic Mat & Hand Sanitizer Service – Admin Bldg.

Ck. No. 24830 – Dan Delich Consulting

\$2,500.00 – Legislative Consulting

Ck. No. 24831 – Gannett Fleming, Inc.

\$5,279.96 – Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project Real Estate Acquisition & General Engineering Services

Ck. No. 24832 – Electrical Specialties, Inc.

\$45.00 – Alarm System Monitoring

Ck. No. 24833 – ETP Crude LLC

\$156,079.75 – Reimbursement Agreement - Rodair Detention

Ck. No. 24834 – Function 4 LLC

\$168.55 – Konmin Copier Overage Copy Charges

Ck. No. 24835 – GP Evans Contractors

\$8,663.55 – Seasonal Mowing Services

Ck. No. 24836 – Herc Rentals Corporation

\$3,005.85 – Dump Truck Rental – 6/24 – 7/22/24

Ck. No. 24837 – Honesty Environmental Services, Inc.

\$3,268.00 – Asbestos Consulting – Taft Elementary – Groves Detention

Ck. No. 24838 – Inland Environments, Ltd.

\$22,187.70 – Taft Elementary Asbestos Abatement – Groves

Ck. No. 24839 – James Gamble, Sr.

\$270.00 – Health Insurance Payment

Ck. No. 24840 – Johnny's Towing & Recovery

\$65.00 – Transport Truck Rental

Ck. No. 24841 – LAWCO

\$17,820.00 – Backhoe Service – Admin Bldg – Vehicle Shed

Ck. No. 24842 – M & S Unlimited Services, LLC

\$450.00 – Transport Truck Rental

Ck. No. 24843 – Mazzanti & Associates LLC

\$2,500.00 – Legislative Consulting

Ck. No. 24844 – Nerbert Frelow
\$3,800.00 – Haul Trees & Trash to 19 Laydown Yard

Ck. No. 24845 – Overhead Door Company
\$1,200.00 – Maintenance – Welding & Mechanic Shop Doors

Ck. No. 24846 – Port Arthur News
\$384.04 – Advertisement for Rodair Detention HMGP Project

Ck. No. 24847 – Ray Russo
\$3,750.00 – Legislative Consulting

Ck. No. 24848 – Ron Lewis & Associates
\$3,500.00 – Legislative Consulting

Ck. No. 24849 – Sam & Tash Services, Inc.
\$1,569.62 – Janitorial Services – Admin Building

Ck. No. 24850 – Select Civil Services, LLC
\$1,280.00 – Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project – PAV01 – Work in Kind – Erosion Repair

Ck. No. 24851 – TCS Consulting
\$3,285.00 – Control Center Email & Anti-Virus Annual Subscriptions

Ck. No. 24852 – Texan Engineering & Consulting LLC
\$11,395.00 – General Engineering & Grant Planning

Ck. No. 24853 – Toby Davis
\$159.50 – Reimbursement for Filing Fees – Easement Rodair Detention

Ck. No. 24854 – Texas Water Conservation Association
\$4,475.00 – Membership Renewal

Ck. No. 24855 – Wave Solutions
\$5,895.35 – Monthly Email, IT Services & Telephone Service – Admin Bldg.

Ck. No. 24856 – Wells Fargo
\$1,007.27 – Meetings, Education, Postage, Rodair Detention

GLO Fund

Ck. No. 5081 – LJA Environmental Services
\$760.00 – Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project

Ck. No. 5082 – Texan Engineering
\$43,874.25 – Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project – PAV03A, PAV03B, PAV03C Utility Relocations

Ck. No. 5083 – Union Pacific Railroad Company
\$2,782.00 – Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project – Work in Kind

Commissioner Vincent moved that the checks from the Maintenance Fund and GLO Fund accounts be approved for payment. Commissioner Gamble seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Beaumont asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There was none.

At 2:32 p.m., Commissioner Gamble moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion. The motion carried.


Richard Beaumont, Chairman


Matthew Vincent, Assistant Secretary