

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
August 5, 2021

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on August 5, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the Harrison County Utility Authority Board Room, at 10271 Express Drive in Gulfport, Mississippi. In attendance were:

**BOARD AND STAFF:**

- Mayor Billy Hewes, City of Gulfport, Director
- Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director
- Mayor Andrew "Fofa" Gilich, City of Biloxi, Director
- Mayor George Bass, City of Long Beach, Director
- Mr. Al Gombos, representing the City of D'Iberville - via Telecom
- Supervisor Marlin Ladner, Harrison County (1), Director
- Supervisor Connie Rockco, Harrison County (2), Director
- Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA
- Ms. Cindy Breaux, Chief Financial Officer, HCUA
- Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Waste Coordinator, HCUA
- Ms. Sheila Marsh, Office Manager, HCUA
- Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire

**ABSENT:**

**AUDIENCE:**

- Cindy Lamb, Pickering Firm, Inc.
- Austin Keith, Pickering Firm, Inc.
- Tommy Thibodeaux, Pelican Waste
- Bernie Parker, City of Long Beach, Councilman

Letters of Designations are attached hereto as exhibit "A".

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Authority, Mayor Andrew "Fofa" Gilich, representing City of Biloxi, called the meeting to order. The following proceedings were had and done.

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**A. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**

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**B. Public Comments**

Andrew "Fofo" Gilich opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Al Gombos requested the Board to support Mr. John Wilson concerning a protocol for social distancing during Board Meetings. Mr. Gombos also noted that additional space in between Board Members should be considered, and he requested a social distancing plan to be prepared and presented to the Board.

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**C. Approval of the Claims Docket dated August 5, 2021**

Mayor George Bass made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated August 5, 2021, seconded by Mayor Billy Hewes. A vote resulted in the following:

|                     |       |     |
|---------------------|-------|-----|
| Biloxi              | voted | aye |
| Gulfport            | voted | aye |
| D'Iberville         | voted | aye |
| Long Beach          | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (1) | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (2) | voted | aye |
| Pass Christian      | voted | aye |

The motion passed. A copy of the Claims Docket is attached hereto as exhibit "B".

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**D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated July 15, 2021**

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to amend the Board Meeting Minutes dated July 15, 2021, Section G2c, Water & Sewer Service Policy – Approval, omit the last paragraph of the minutes that include, "Mr. Al Gombos made motion to table Water & Sewer Service Policy – Approval, seconded by Mayor George Bass", seconded by Supervisor Connie Rockco. A vote resulted in the following:

|                     |       |     |
|---------------------|-------|-----|
| Biloxi              | voted | aye |
| Gulfport            | voted | aye |
| D'Iberville         | voted | aye |
| Long Beach          | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (1) | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (2) | voted | aye |
| Pass Christian      | voted | aye |

The motion passed. A copy of Board Meeting Minutes dated July 15, 2021 – Amended per Board Members is attached hereto as exhibit “C”.

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**E. Action Items**

**E1. Old Business**

None

**E2. New Business**

**E2a. Long Beach Funding Resolution**

Mr. John Wilson presented a Long Beach Funding Resolution to the Board Members. Mr. Wilson explained that MDEQ requires a Funding Resolution by the Board, that assures MDEQ, that HCUA agrees to fund, excess costs, of the work for Long Beach Phase I Project/South Forest Pump Station to Menge Avenue.

Mayor George Bass made motion to approve Long Beach Funding Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner with discussion.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner requested clarification as to the specifics regarding HCUA’s responsibility for any remaining balance, in excess, of MDEQ approved funds.

Mr. Jim Simpson, Counsel explained that MDEQ requires a Resolution indicating that HCUA accepts responsibility of any remaining balance due after MDEQ funds the project.

Mr. John Wilson noted a roll call was required for the Long Beach Funding Resolution.

A roll call vote resulted in the following:

|                     |       |     |
|---------------------|-------|-----|
| D’berville          | voted | aye |
| Long Beach          | voted | aye |
| Gulfport            | voted | aye |
| Biloxi              | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (2) | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (1) | voted | aye |
| Pass Christian      | voted | aye |

The motion passed. A copy of the Long Beach Funding Resolution is attached hereto as exhibit “D”.

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**E2b. FY 21, 22, & 23 Auditor – Recommend Award**

Mr. John Wilson recommended award of FY 21, 22, & 23 Audit, to Wolfe, McDuff, & Oppie, with a cost of approximately \$41,000 for (3) three years.

Mayor Andrew “Fofu” Gilich questioned if an integrated automation system would reduce any fees.

Ms. Cindy Breau explained with an integrated automated system, she could provide detailed information that would help reduce time required from the auditors to complete an audit and in return should result in a reduction on fees charged.

Mayor George Bass made motion to approve FY 21, 22, & 23 Auditor – Recommend Award, seconded by Mayor Jimmy Rafferty. A vote resulted in the following:

|                     |       |     |
|---------------------|-------|-----|
| Biloxi              | voted | aye |
| Gulfport            | voted | aye |
| D’lberville         | voted | aye |
| Long Beach          | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (1) | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (2) | voted | aye |
| Pass Christian      | voted | aye |

The motion passed. A copy of the FY 21, 22, & 23 Auditor – Recommend Award is attached hereto as exhibit “E”.

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**E2c. Flat Branch Change Order # 1**

Mr. John Wilson explained that the Flat Branch Change Order # 1, is a deductive, in the amount of \$3,150.00 from the overall contract amount. The reduction is due to a change in the scope of work. Eliminating fees for work not required in exchange for debris removal on project to satisfy the Corp of Engineer.

Mayor Billy Hewes made motion to approve Flat Branch Change Order #1, seconded by Mayor George Bass. A vote resulted in the following:

|                     |       |     |
|---------------------|-------|-----|
| Biloxi              | voted | aye |
| Gulfport            | voted | aye |
| D’lberville         | voted | aye |
| Long Beach          | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (1) | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (2) | voted | aye |
| Pass Christian      | voted | aye |

The motion passed. A copy of the Flat Branch Change Order #1 is attached hereto as exhibit "F".

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**F. Solid Waste Report**

Mr. John Wilson explained there was a fire at the Pensacola MRF Facility. There have been no delays in the recycling program for residents. Recycling services have continued, the contractor is stock piling, and overages are transported to the land fill. The date for reopening of the Pensacola MRF is unknown, but delay in the services, are temporary.

Mr. Alan Lane presented a "Oops Notice" to the Board for review. Mr. Lane explained that Pelican fills out the top portion of the card noting the reason a debris pile was not picked up and fastens the tag to the debris pile. The bottom portion of the tag is completed and turned in to Pelican dispatch department. The dispatcher will compile a spreadsheet for non-compliance debris piles and forward the information to Alan, who in return, will distribute the information to member agencies and all parties associated with the location of the noncompliance debris pile.

Mr. Al Gombos requested a copy of the "Pelican Waste & Debris Oops Notice" card that was presented to the Board. Mr. Lane agreed to forward a copy to Mr. Gombos.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner addressed the issue of debris piles that continue to sit at curbside and suggested an assigned person travel and inspect the routes for debris.

Mr. Lane explained there are route supervisors who follow and inspect the routes, including Mr. Lane. The Operations Manager, Pelican and Alex Farris, HCUA all travel and inspect the routes.

Tommy Thibodeaux, Pelican Waste, addressed the board and explained he continues to communicate with Timothy Smith, Harrison County Road Department to resolve debris complaints.

Mr. Alan Lane noted that Pelican Waste agreed to a Community Project, on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, cleaning debris in the area of Old Woolmarket Road. The owner of the property agreed to place a barrier in efforts to reduce dumping of debris on the property.

No action was required.

A copy of the Pelican Waste & Debris Oops Notice" card is attached hereto as exhibit "G"

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**G. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. John Wilson's report included Long Beach Project Phase I, Notice To Proceed, is dated for the end of August and Long Beach Phase II, Notice To Proceed, is dated for the end of July.

The member agencies Budget Meetings are almost complete. A Revised Budget will be presented at the next Board Meeting, August 19, 2021, and there will be a request to advertise per service agreement for a Public Hearing, on September 2, 2021.

Supervisor Marlin requested an update on Project S14 and the pipe issues regarding easement. Supervisor Ladner questioned the time frame that it takes to determine if pipe is installed outside the easement, and if the pipe is installed outside the easement, who is responsible for the cost to properly re-install the pipe.

Mr. John Wilson explained surveys are involved to determine the easement situation and there are no final answers on the easement situation at this time. The situation continues to be under investigation. The erosion, fencing and gate repairs have been completed. Repairs on the Sumrall property are completed.

Mr. Jim Simpson, Counsel noted, the Contractor is responsible for the installation of the pipe.

Mr. Jim Simpson, Counsel noted that the next Board Meeting will require an Executive Session regarding the S14 litigation. Previously approval by the Board was the Interim Line of Credit, no documents have been signed to date. The Bank will be requiring signatures on the Note soon.

Mayor George Bass requested clarification on details involving the Board Members and social distancing mentioned by Mr. Al Gombos during Public Comments and whether there had been discussion on the subject.

Mr. Wilson explained there had been a small discussion with Mr. Gombos and it was agreed that currently Board Members should practice social distancing during Board Meetings.

Mayor George Bass requested HCUA order new chairs for the Board Room.

Mr. John Wilson advised HCUA would order new chairs for the Board Room.

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**H. Executive Session**

There was no need for Executive Session.

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I. **Adjourn** – At this time Mayor Billy Hewes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner. A vote resulted in the following:

|                     |       |     |
|---------------------|-------|-----|
| Biloxi              | voted | aye |
| Gulfport            | voted | aye |
| D'Iberville         | voted | aye |
| Long Beach          | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (1) | voted | aye |
| Harrison County (2) | voted | aye |
| Pass Christian      | voted | aye |

The motion to adjourn passed.

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Harrison County Utility Authority

  
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Harrison County Utility Authority