

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2011**

PRESENT: Stephen Estopinal, Chair
Timothy Doody, Committee Member
George Losonsky, Committee Member

The Finance Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on October 6, 2011, in the East Jefferson Levee District Conference Room, 203 Plauche Court, Harahan, Louisiana. Mr. Estopinal called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Opening Comments: None

Adoption of Agenda: Agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 8, 2011 Finance Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

A. Discussion of renewal of Orleans Levee District Business Automobile Liability Insurance coverage.

Carol Kiefer, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Safety-Risk Manager, advised that only one viable proposal was received, which was from the incumbent provider, Praetorian Insurance Company. Praetorian quoted a premium of \$153,174 to cover 153 units with a one million dollar limit for liability and no deductible. A second proposal was received quoting a premium of \$291,650. Praetorian is an admitted company in the State of Louisiana and has provided coverage for the O.L.D. for the past five years. Randy Maddox with Morrison Insurance Agency explained that ten additional markets were approached for quotes; however, declinations were received because of the police operations.

A motion was offered by Mr. Doody, seconded by Mr. Losonsky and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board approve the renewal of Automobile Liability Insurance coverage with Praetorian Insurance Company.

B. Discussion of extension of contract with Shelly Midura for Grant Consulting Services.

Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, advised that a contract was executed about a year ago with Shelly Midura for the administration of the SLFAP-E's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and to search for new grants. The costs of Ms.

Midura's services are distributed to each levee district in accordance with the services provided for that district. Mr. Turner requested that the contract be extended for an additional period of six months and for an additional not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000. Services are provided on an hourly basis at a rate of \$60 per hour. Civil Service has approved a position at the Orleans Levee District for a grant writer and to assist with other financial duties. The Civil Service position will be advertised and Ms. Midura would provide the necessary training should the position be filled.

The Committee discussed the services provided by Ms. Midura and the importance of the current and potential future grants. Mr. Losonsky pointed out the need to have a person who is able to deliver the caliber of services required by the Authority.

Mr. Doody offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Losonsky and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board approve the extension of Ms. Midura's contract.

C. Update on acquisition of Airport Property by East Jefferson Levee District.

Fran Campbell, East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) Executive Director, provided a copy of a map of the property to be acquired by the EJLD for the construction of a safe house and consolidated facility, along with a list of the procedures being undertaken in the acquisition process. The parcels that are needed are owned by the Louis Armstrong-New Orleans International Airport, the Kenner Food Bank, and private and commercial property owners, along with several streets owned by the City of Kenner. Negotiations are on-going with a private land owner. A commercial property owner requested that its parcel be expropriated due to the number of successions that would be involved in a purchase. The owner of one small parcel that was acquired at a tax sale has not yet been identified. Parcels that cannot be acquired through purchase can be expropriated. Title research and surveys were performed and title insurance was obtained by the Airport for the parcels that it acquired about 15 years ago. The Airport and FAA are agreeable with the purchase of the Airport property. The City of New Orleans requires public notice to adjacent landowners for the purchase of City property; however, a waiver of this requirement is being requested since there are no immediately adjacent landowners.

Ms. Campbell advised that a contract was executed with the firm of Waggoner and Ball for the East Jefferson Safehouse and Operations Facilities project. The first phase (Phase I – Study Phase) has been completed and the next phase is Phase II – the Design Phase. BFM can be provided a task order for the required surveys under the SLFPA-E's ID-IQ contract with the firm.

Ms. Campbell requested authority to proceed with certain actions should the New Orleans City Council approve the purchase of the Airport property so that the project can proceed in a timely manner. The Committee discussed recommending that the Board authorize the EJLD Executive Director to take the following actions upon the New Orleans City Council's approval of the purchase of the Airport property, subject to review by Robert Lacour, SLFPA-E's General Counsel:

- Negotiation and issuance of a task order to BFM under the current ID-IQ contract to perform the required surveys.

- Selection and retention of the services of a title insurance company to perform the required abstracts and insure the titles.
- Negotiation of specific fees with the firm of Waggoner and Ball for the design phase under the current contract.

Mr. Doody offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Losonsky and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board authorize the EJLD Executive Director to proceed with the aforementioned actions as discussed.

D. Discussion of Capital Outlay requests for FY 2012-2013.

Wilma Heaton explained that Board approval of Capital Outlay Requests is required in order to file the applications that are due on November 1st. The Capital Outlay requests were received from the respective Executive Director of each levee district and are the same as last year's requests. Due to the limited available dollars for Capital Outlay projects, she asked that the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District's (LBBLD) request for Item No. 5 – Storm Proofing Pump Stations in St. Bernard Parish, Planning and Construction – for the amount of \$24 million be broken into four phases of \$6 million per phase. The Committee concurred with breaking Item No. 5 into four phases. Ms. Heaton added that she received a letter of support from Senator Crowe for the LBBLD's application for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for safe rooms, which is being prepared by Ms. Midura.

Mr. Doody offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Losonsky and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board approve the Capital Outlay requests.

E. Discussion of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of New Orleans for Police and security equipment purchased, installed and assigned to the O.L.D. by way of a grant obtained through the City EOC Homeland Security.

Mr. Gillen advised that the City of New Orleans applied and received a grant through U.S. Homeland Security and offered the O.L.D. Police Department (OLDPD) the opportunity to apply for certain equipment to be used for security purposes. The City of New Orleans must officially transfer the equipment (two King Quads ATVs and a Kawasaki MULE 4010) has been delivered to the OLDPD through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA). Additional equipment anticipated to be received in the future includes portable floodlights and ten security cameras. The security cameras will be strategically placed to view high security areas such as the Lakefront Airport and Bayou Bienvenue. The cameras will be positioned such that some of the floodgates will also be in view. Mr. Gillen asked that he be authorized to execute the CEA required for the equipment already received and for the equipment to be received in the future.

A motion was offered by Mr. Losonsky, seconded by Mr. Doody and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board authorize the O.L.D. Executive Director to execute a CEA with the City of New Orleans for the current and future receipt of the aforementioned security equipment.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.