

**MINUTES  
MID-BAY BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020**

**DESTIN CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
4200 INDIAN BAYOU TRAIL  
DESTIN, FLORIDA**

**I. OPENING**

Members present:                   Gordon E. Fornell  
  James D. Neilson, Jr.  
  Victoria S. Harker  
  Parker Destin (arrived after Approval of Minutes)  
  T. Patterson Maney (arrived after Approval of Treasurer’s Report)  
  Bryant Paulk                    FDOT Ex officio, non-voting

Also present:                        Van Fuller                        Executive Director  
  Michelle Anchors                Legal Counsel  
  Cathy Demoreski                Administrative Assistant

**II. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Fornell welcomed all visitors. In attendance were Michael J. A. Panarisi, Student/Resident and Michael T. Panarisi, Resident.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting – July 16, 2020**

(August 19, 2020 Regular Meeting was cancelled due to non-availability of Public Meeting Space because of Pandemic restrictions at both the City of Destin and the City of Niceville. The September 17, 2020 Regular Meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Sally.)

**A motion to approve the July 16, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Ms. Harker and a 3-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**IV. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Ms. Harker presented the Treasurer’s Report for July 2020. Account balances were:

FNBT	\$ 133,230.12
Regions	\$49,029,072.54

Ms. Harker presented the Treasurer’s Report for August 2020. Account balances were:

FNBT	\$ 90,035.59
Regions	\$51,112,867.74

Ms. Harker presented the Treasurer’s Report for September 2020. Account balances were:

FNBT	\$ 103,302.90
Regions	\$52,810,992.71

**Ms. Harker made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for July, August, and September 2020 with a second by Mr. Neilson and a 4-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**A. Operations.** Mr. Fuller reported that operations on the System continue to be experiencing the effects from the COVID-19 Pandemic however traffic is rebounding. Jacobs, the Authority's Traffic & Revenue consultant updated the FY2020 projections in April 2020 due to the Pandemic and beginning in May 2020 the new projections are being used for comparison on the monthly reports. When compared against the original projections there is an 88% difference on the Bridge for the month of August 2020 and 79% for the fiscal year with a 20% effect on the revenue. The Parkway is 66% versus the original projections for the month of August with year-to-date revenue at 82%. At first glance it appears we will barely meet the debt service requirements for the fiscal year but will not know for sure until the financial statements have been completed. Since debt service coverage increases annually Jacobs is ready, if necessary, to conduct a Toll Rate Study to determine if any adjustment to the current toll rate structure will be necessary should the Authority not meet its current coverage requirement. Discussion included that the Parkway feels less travelled as does traffic in Fort Walton Beach. Traffic and revenue monitoring will continue going forward.

**B. Mid-Bay Bridge Maintenance, Inspection, and Repair Update.** Mr. Fuller reported that all Bridge tendon repairs were completed, and axle restrictions lifted on August 9, 2020, except for permitted loads. The Departments plan going forward is to let structure "settle" after the tendon replacements until next year before additional testing.

**C. Annual Consultants Review Recommendations (Meeting held via ZOOM on Aug 19, 2020 due to COVID-19).** Mr. Fuller reported a good meeting in which Chairman, General Fornell sat in. The action item is to coordinate with our underwriter early next year and update the rating agencies on our year-end performance in response to our rating having a negative outlook due to the pandemic.

Mr. Fuller explained that in order to move forward with the FY2020 financial reporting and replacement of a budgeted failing HVAC unit, the four items listed below were approved in accordance with his authority to do so during the two month period when meetings were canceled as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Hurricane Sally. The following items are hereby presented for the Authority's ratification.

- D. Ratify Bond Year 2020 Arbitrage Letter of Engagement - Warren Averett**
- E. Ratify FY2020 Compilation Letter of Engagement - Warren Averett**
- F. Ratify FY2020 Audit Letter of Engagement - Carr, Riggs, Ingram**
- G. Ratify Resort Air Estimate of New HVAC Unit in Suite 501**

**A motion was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Destin to ratify Items D, E, F and G as listed above with a 5-0 vote taken for approval.**

**H. Memberships Review/Approval (TEAMFL, EDC, NVCC, DCC, CBA).** Mr. Fuller requested Board approval for the continuation of membership in the Transportation Expressway Authority Membership of Florida (TEAMFL), Okaloosa County Economic Development Council (EDC), Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce (NVCC) and its Military Affairs Committee (MAC), Destin Chamber of Commerce (DCC), and the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) all of which are included in the FY2021 Budget. Mr. Fornell encouraged board members attendance at the meetings held by the above organizations as often as possible. Mr. Maney inquired as to why the Authority is not a member of the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council (TDC). Ms. Anchors explained that as she understands it membership is by appointment of either local or state legislation. She will investigate it and report her findings.

**A motion was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Destin to approve the Authority's continued memberships to TEAMFL, EDC, NVCC including the MAC, DCC, and CBA for 2021 in accordance with the approved FY2021 Budget with a 5-0 was vote taken for approval.**

Mr. Fuller shared with the Authority a thank you note received from a lifelong resident of the Niceville area who included toll coupon books dating back to 1986 and 1988 and expressed who her appreciation of the work done for the community over the years by the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, et al.

## **VI. LEGAL COUNSEL**

**A. Annual Policy Review/Renewal.** Ms. Anchors reported that she has reviewed the existing and current policies and procedures of the Authority. There were no statutory or required changes to the current policies and therefore recommended renewal.

**A motion was made by Mr. Neilson with a second by Mr. Maney to renew the Authority's Capitalization, Code of Ethics, Recognition and Hospitality, Procurement, Public Participation, and Revenue Recognitions Policies for FY2021 and a 5-0 vote was taken for approval.**

**B. Annual Ethics Training.** In support of the annual ethics awareness, board members are requested to complete refresher training. Ms. Anchors will send links to videos, which are available on the Ethics website, to serve this purpose. A Certification of Completion Form will be circulated for completion by each member and should be returned to the Authority office.

## **VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Maney took this opportunity to explain that depending upon the outcome of the November 3, 2020 election this may be his last meeting as a member of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority because if elected as State Representative he may not be allowed to remain on the Authority's Board. He thanked his fellow Board Members and expressed pride in having had the opportunity to serve as a public servant to the people of Okaloosa County,

he has learned a lot. Ms. Harker reported to the Board members that she and her husband Steve would be moving away from the area at the end of December 2020. She expressed having enjoyed her time over the past two years while serving as a member of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority and has been impressed by the group and the work they do. Mr. Fornell noted that the departure of Mr. Maney and Ms. Harker leaves two dents in the Authority's armor, but we will press on to replace them. He thanked them both for their service, expressed appreciation for their efforts along with Under Sheriff Steve Harker (Tori's husband) for the great job they have done for the community and our country and wished them well going forward. Mr. Neilson echoed the comments made by Mr. Fornell adding it has been a pleasure working with them both. Mr. Destin echoed Mr. Fornell and Mr. Neilson and will miss working with them both. He is looking forward to Mr. Maney winning in November and being able to represent not only the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority in the legislature but also all citizens of Okaloosa County. Finally, Mr. Destin indicated that since he was unsuccessful in his efforts to be elected to the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners, he will now have extra time to devote to the Authority. Mr. Paulk reported that all is going well in this part of the District unfortunately the same is not true on the west end.

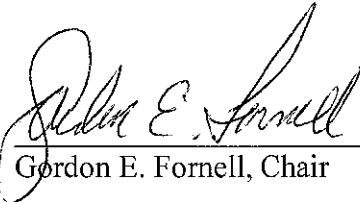
#### **VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on **Thursday, November 19, 2020** at 9:00 a.m. in the Niceville City Hall Council Chambers, Niceville, Florida.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:31 a.m.

**Approved this 19th day of November 2020.**

  
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Gordon E. Fornell, Chair