

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON AUGUST 19, 2015, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 19th day of August 2015, the Toll Bridge Board met in a regular Bridge Board Meeting. Following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Larry Hernandez, Vice-Chairman
Prajeres Gutierrez, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Perla Tamez, Secretary
Mary Sotelo, Member

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
PRESENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
ABSENT:** Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Mayor Pro-Tem Oscar Elizondo

STAFF PRESENT: Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations
Luis Bazan, Industrial Development Manager
Vanessa Guzman, Administrative Assistant
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant

OTHER PRESENT: Juan G. Guerra, Interim City Manager
Edward Wylie, Asst. City Manager
Bill Ueckert, City Engineer
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs Consultant
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Liaison
Sylvia Briones, CBP
David Moreno, CBP
Brian McKinney, CBP
Sergio Contreras, Interim EDC Director
Sgt. Juan Sanchez, Bridge PD
Karla Moya, Interim Finance Director

There being a quorum established Chairman Edgar Delgadillo called the meeting to order. Following is the agenda:

1. Roll Call-Excuse absent members
2. Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

3. Public Comments
4. Consideration and action on approval of minutes-July 14, 2015
5. Discussion and action, if any, on INDEX Reynosa 2015 Charity Golf Tournament for \$2,000
6. Crossings and revenues comparison for July 2015
7. Expenditures report for July 2015
8. Project engineer report
9. Director's Administrative Report
10. Discussion and action, if any, on Texas Border Coalition Membership for 2015-2016 for \$5,000
11. Discussion and action, if any, on upgrade to the Dock Enforcement Booth
12. Adjournment

A. CALL TO ORDER:

ITEM "1": ROLL CALL-EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

Chairman Delgadillo called the meeting to order. All members were present during roll call except for Secretary Tamez and Member Sotelo. Vice-Chairman Hernandez made a motion to excuse Secretary Tamez and Member Sotelo for being absent. Member Gutierrez seconded the motion and was carried on unanimously. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM "2": PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATIONS

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the item and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance. Luis Bazan, Interim Bridge Director led the group in a prayer. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS: *(The City of Pharr has called this meeting as allowed pursuant to Texas law, city charter, and Ordinance O-2015-28. The governing body may recess from day to day when it does not complete consideration of a particularly long subject as authorized by law. All persons desiring to address the governing body must register with the presiding clerk prior to the scheduled meeting)*

ITEM "3": PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item and stated that there were no public comments registered at this time. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: *(All items listed under consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Governing body and will be enacted by one motion. Any Board Member may remove items from the consent agenda by making such request prior to a motion and vote on the Consent Agenda)*

**ITEM "4": CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES-
JULY 14, 2015**

**ITEM "5": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON INDEX REYNOSA 2015
CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT FRIDAY EVENING MIXER
SPONSORSHIP FOR \$ 2,000**

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Vice-Chairman asked that on the golf tournament, that that has been going on for how long. Mr. Luis Bazan, Interim Bridge Director stated that this is going to be the third year that they do that, and that they basically sponsor the evening mixer and it has been helpful to them and they are an associate member of INDEX of Reynosa and it put them on the same platform with a lot of the companies across the border from them, which are some of our main crossers. He added that idea behind this is to keep nourishing that relationship with INDEX and continue pushing forward, and as a matter of fact the INDEX National President Emilio Cadena, he will be present in Laredo next month for a big conference and he plans on attending, the bridge will be there and again it is just to fortify their relationship with Mexico and continue pushing forward, and bringing more of these companies across our bridge. Several discussions took place regarding this item. Vice-Chairman made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Member Gutierrez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

D. DIRECTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: *(Director's Administrative Reports and discussion, if any, with Bridge Board. The Director may also assign a designated spokesperson for any particular listed topic)*

ITEM "6": CROSSING AND REVENUES COMPARISON FOR JULY 2015

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Interim Bridge Director stated that Mr. Brouwen, Director of Operations will be giving that report. Mr. Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that for the month of July total crossings were 113,906, which represents a (-1,869) vehicles or (-1.61%) compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 69,385 cars, which presents a (-2,336) cars or (-3.26%). Mr. Brouwen reported that total truck crossings for the month of July were 44,521, which represents an increase of 467 trucks or 1.06% increase in trucks. Mr. Brouwen added that they collected \$1,081,154 for the month of July, an increase of

\$102,864, which represents an increase of 10.51% for the month of July. He added total increase for the fiscal 2014-2015, for the past 10 months was \$350,859, so it was a very good month and they do show a positive increase on revenues. Mr. Guerra, City Manager asked that when does the \$0.25 cent increase start. Mr. Brouwen stated that the \$0.25 cent will be effective October 1st, and we are expecting to collect an additional \$16,000 dollars a month more or less. Several discussions then took place regarding the crossings report. Chairman Delgadillo stated that he was very surprised that they had that good of a month being that it is a summer month and because of the produce season, and he knows that in July a lot of the automotive stuff will shut down and try to push everything out so that might have helped a little, but for produce it's pretty good and it stayed like that for most of the summer, and for people who are not very familiar with them, the summers here in the valley were the slowest seasons for produce down here. He added that they can't farm it, and can't pick up anything that could be sold up north, and a lot of stuff that was coming across from Mexico and we were stuck with just mangos, limes, or watermelons, and he thinks that a lot of the efforts that they have done trying to sell the bridge for other states, it's starting to pay off because you see how steady it's stayed since December all the way through and if you think about it the season is about to start next month for produce, so he thinks that they have a much better year coming. Several discussions then took place regarding the crossings report. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM "7": EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR JULY 2015

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Interim Bridge Director stated that Mrs. Karla Moya is there to give them a rundown of the proposed budget for 2015-2016. Mrs. Karla Moya, Interim Finance Director stated that revenues and expenditures are on track and everything is pretty much within budget. She added that the City Manager wanted her to present to the board the proposed budget that will be taken to the city council on Tuesday, and that she is not sure if they got a copy of it because it was last minute and it wasn't in the agenda. Mr. Guerra, City Manager stated that to reschedule the proposed budget for September's meeting, and that so there are aware that the city will not adopt the budget until the two meeting in September so it should be enough time for the board to meet and have a say in the final budget numbers. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM "8": PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Interim Bridge Director stated that they have the City Engineer Bill Ueckert there to give them a report. Mr. Ueckert, City Engineer stated that about three weeks ago they had a meeting with TX-DOT, Customs, GSA and themselves for the connection to the BSIF and it went very well he believes. He added that the plans are suppose to be completed sometime by the end of this year and hopefully going out for bids sometime in January or February of next year. He added that the construction period is about maybe 12 months, so they are looking at hopefully having everything completed within a year to two-years. Mr. Guerra, City Manager stated that as per TX-DOT's recommendation they have to go back to

GSA and get it in writing that they are going to approve these projects. Mr. Bazan stated that there is one more thing pending, and one of the things that came out of that meeting was a traffic study that has been recommended by GSA, so that is something that they are going to be looking in to. He added that according to TX-DOT it is not needed, they have gone this far without it, they have the statistics and the numbers that they have gathered in the last years when they started planning the BSIF Connector, FAST Lane, and the gate-to-gate, but they are still going to consider it and look in to it. Mr. Bazan added that Mr. Ueckert was giving them the time frame more or less, GSA is stating that they might have this project completed around this time next year, but being more conservative about the time frame they are giving it at least till the end of 2016 for the entire project to be completed, and it is going to be completed in three different phases. He added phase one would be the actual connector to the BSIF on the top, the second phase would be the bottom, which is the actual bypass of the trucks, for the 30% certified and empties that cross through our bridge, which is about 600-800 trucks per day and then the final phase would be the actual connection of two and aligning those with the booths that are going to move east to west to south to north, and including the two additional booths. Several discussions then took place regarding this item and other future projects. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM "9": DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Interim Bridge Director stated that he has a couple of items and one of the items is that they met with the new Aduana Director yesterday Mr. Sergio Berlin Perez, our City Manager was there with us and he brought in his staff, the people that are going to be working alongside of him. He added that one of the things that came out of the meeting was that they plan to work very closely together with them, they gave them a rundown of our projects, a rundown of our strategy, and they understand it and one of the major reasons why he is here is specifically to move these projects forward, so they are going to develop a working relationship with them and they are going to be working closely. Mr. Bazan stated that one of the pending meetings that they do have is a meeting with the new Sub-Secretary of Obras Publicas, which is Public Works for the State of Tamaulipas his name is Salvador Trevino Garza and that is something that they have pending, and are trying to schedule it for tomorrow but have not been able to firm up that date but that is the next step. He added that one of the reasons why they want to meet with this gentlemen is because again he is also newly appointed and he will give them a rundown and an update on what they are working on in the Mexico side. Mr. Bazan stated that they also have Mr. Marcos Olivarez there from CAPUFE to give them a quick rundown of the construction on the bridge. Mr. Marco Olivarez from CAPUFE then began to give a brief explanation of the construction on top of the bridge on the Mexican side in Spanish. Several discussions took place regarding the construction. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM "10": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON TEXAS BORDER

COALITION MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015-2016 FOR \$5,000

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Interim Bridge Director stated that they have been members in the past and they have participated in there board in the past, last year for one reason or another they were not very activate, and they want to make sure that they are activate on the board, it's a necessity kind of like INDEX it's an association where it levels the playing field for everyone and in this case it is mostly for lobbying at the state level. He added that JD Salinas who was our ex-County Judge is the Chairman this year and he is requesting the \$5,000, and again just as a sponsorship and one of the persons that has been highly involved with TBC for a number of years is our very own Sergio Contreras who is now the Interim EDC Director and also External Affairs Director for the City and he is here if he board would like to address any questions. Mr. Guerra, City Manager asked that what was the sponsorship amount last year. Mr. Bazan stated that it was the same but last year they did not participate for one reason or another. Several discussions then took place regarding this item. Mr. Sergio Contreras, Interim EDC Director/External Affairs Director stated that the previous chairman of TBC was our former Mayor Pro-Tem Adan Farias, and in regards to the organization, it's been in existence since about 2005, and its composed of Mayor's, County Commissioners, and County Judges from El Paso to Brownsville. He added that they advocate on about four different points on behalf of TBC, education, healthcare, transportation, and ports of entries supporting their efforts in addition to high ed. He stated that they were active with them, they have been active with them in the sense that they supported our legislative agenda during legislated session, which occurs every odd year, and they were in support of a creation of a Foreign Trade Zone, they were in support in the establishment of the original law enforcement center in Pharr to the extent that there is limited resources for a municipality or stake holders to travel to Austin, TBC has a group that represents us in Austin, so in the time that we are not able to participate or don't have folks that go and pledge our support which is required during a testimony or hearing, they were there, they were present and they signed the card on our behalf. He added that there is value in the sense of what they provide, currently the Chairman is a former GSA Administrator that has already engaged us with his predecessor, in the sense also with the current person manages it, so there is also a relationship that we are building because of that contact. Several discussions then took place regarding Mr. Contreras' explanation. Vice-Chairman Hernandez made a motion to approve the Texas Border Coalition Membership. Member Gutierrez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM "11": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON UPGRADE TO THE DOCK ENFORCEMENT BOOTH

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Interim Bridge Director stated that this is something that a couple of years ago the Pharr Bridge installed a booth at the inspection dock, at the federal building and ever since that they installed that they found out that they were out growing it at a faster pace. He added that basically what they want to do is double up the size of that booth, it's for officers

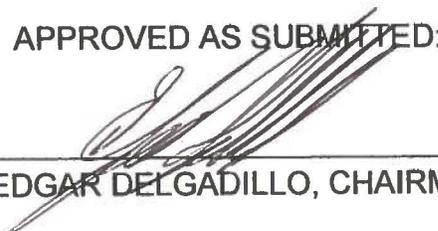
and the have Mr. McKinney there with CBP to address that, but he just wanted to give the board a quick rundown of what it is. He added that they are looking at a cost of about \$18,375 dollars and it will double the size of what they currently have to make it about 12x25 feet. Mr. McKinney stated that the have three different quotes for the booth and with that the Vanguard quotes gives \$18,375 and that is with delivery cost built in. He added that with an operational point of view the expansion of this dock would help increase the flow of the trucks and the inspection process between all the officers, the agricultural specialists, and CBP enforcement officers. Mr. McKinney then began to give a brief explanation of the dock enforcement booth. Several discussions then took place regarding this item. Member Gutierrez made a motion to approve the Dock Enforcement Booth. Vice-Chairman Hernandez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

F. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM "12": ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Member Gutierrez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairman Hernandez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:


EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

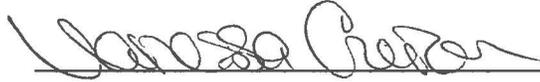
ATTEST:


PERLA TAMEZ, SECRETARY

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §
CITY OF PHARR §

ON THE 14th DAY OF JULY 2015, the Toll Bridge Board convened in a Regular Meeting at the Pharr International Bridge, the meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting, giving the date, place and subject thereof, having been posted to the public and notice of said meeting, given in accordance to Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code, (Open Meetings Act) and their being present a quorum, I,

VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.



**VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

DATE APPROVED: 9-9-15
Word/C:BoardMeetings/BoardMtgMinutes8-19-15