ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL PORT DISTRICT

Summary Record of Proceedings
of the
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 24, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois International Port District was held on Friday, July 24, 2026, at the offices of the IIPD, at 3600 E. 95th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Roll was called at approximately 8:40 am. The following Directors were present:

Mr. Solis	Present	Ms. Edwards	Present	Ms. Rodriguez	Present
Ms. Cassel	Present	Mr. Jordan	Present	Mr. Wisniewski	Present
Ms. Sanchez	Present	Ms. McClendon (via teleconference)			
Dr. Sriraj	(via teleconference)				

Also present: Erik Varela, Executive Director; LaKesha Lundy, Treasurer; and Counsel Brad Smith, Neal and Leroy, LLC.

General Public Present: See attached list of members of the public present.

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to allow Director McClendon and Director Sriraj to attend the meeting via teleconference. The Motion was made by Mr. Wisniewski, seconded by Ms. Sanchez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES

Leases and Agreements Committee Report. – Items requiring action

Adoption of June 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Solis reported the Leases and Agreements Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the June 23, 2026 meeting minutes, subject to the correction of the spelling of Mr. Varela's name on page 1. A Motion to approve was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Edwards, and the Motion passed unanimously.

FTZ Operating Agreements

1. Ryder Integrated Logistics, Inc.
2. Omni Logistics, LLC
3. Elgin Logistics
4. Panasonic

Chairman Solis reported the Leases and Agreements Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the FTZ Operating Agreements with Ryder Integrated Logistics, Inc, Omni Logistics, LLC, Elgin Logistics, and Panasonic. Chairman Solis requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Edwards, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Lease Agreement – Atlas Tube

Chairman Solis reported the Leases and Agreements Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the lease agreement with Atlas Tube, and requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Edwards, and the Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

Finance and Personnel Committee Report – Items requiring action

Adoption of Committee Minutes
Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the Committee's June 23, 2026 minutes and requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Sanchez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Financial Reports
Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the June 2026 Financial Reports and requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Sanchez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 26-02– Authorization of Easement Conveyance relating to Doty Ditch Maintenance
Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Board of Directors adopt Resolution 26-02 authorizing the conveyance of a permanent easement to IDOT for the permanent maintenance of the Doty Avenue ditch. Chairman Solis requested a Motion to adopt Resolution 26-02. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Sanchez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 26-03– Authorization of Application for 2026 FEMA Port Security Grant
Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Board of Directors adopt Resolution 26-03, authorizing the FEMA Port Security Grant application relating to security equipment at Lake Calumet. Chairman Solis requested a Motion to adopt Resolution 26-03. Ms. Cassel made the Motion, the Motion was seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF BOARD MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes
Chairman Solis requested a Motion to approve the Board of Directors' June 23, 2026 meeting minutes. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Mr. Jordan and the Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS
Chairman Solis reported there was no Old Business to be addressed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion of litigation matters pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
Discussion of property lease matters pursuant to Section 2(c)(6) of the Ill Open Meetings Act.
Discussion of personnel matters pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Solis reported there was no business to be discussed in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Solis reported there was no New Business to be addressed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Varela played a video, recently produced by Morreale Communications, that highlights the IIPD, its history and economics, its prime location, the district's ongoing and planned capital projects, and its commitment to growth. The video also highlighted the available land for development, the IIPD's need for infrastructure investment and the many opportunities for growth at the IIPD.

Executive Director Varela reported

- The IIPD 2025 Audit Report is being finalized.
- Lake Calumet Multi-Use Trail: The evaluations of responding proposals are nearing completion.
- Phase 2 Design for the Butler Drive Reconstruction. IIPD staff and Collins Engineering held a kickoff meeting with representatives from Cook County and STV related to Phase 2 Design. The design period is expected to take 18 months.
- The draft of the proposed revised IIPD Tariff and Rules and Regulations was shared with the Board for consideration. Additional summary and updated materials will be shared with the Board in advance of the August meeting.
- Soy Trade Mission to Portugal, Morocco, and Spain. The IIPD has been invited to participate in this mission. The Board discussed attendance and requested further information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alex Munoz, QSL Mr. Munoz thanked Local 150 for all its support. Mr. Munoz quoted Mr. Varela stating, "a picture is worth a thousand words". Mr. Munoz stated this is only when it is convenient and benefits Mr. Varela. Mr. Munoz stated that they have posted and presented hundreds of pictures and videos of unsafe work conditions that Mr. Varela chooses to ignore. He stated Mr. Varela believes what QSL and the ILA tells him.

Mr. Munoz stated that Mr. Varela says "a picture is worth a thousand words" but does not believe their pictures and videos. He stated there have been near misses, unsafe work conditions, and employees almost crushed by coils, yet Mr. Varela only believes what QSL and ILA tells him.

Mr. Munoz stated QSL claims to take back striking workers with open arms but has been nothing but disrespectful. He asserted that QSL refers to striking workers as former employees, and that QSL managers have threatened to fight with them physically, and they have proof of this. He stated that they do not lie, that they have evidence of everything that they present to the Board, but the Board ignores them and believes QSL and ILA, a company that has tried to intimidate them in the past for exercising their right to strike, and a union that claims brotherhood and no man left behind. Mr. Munoz asserted that the ILA has had hundreds of meetings with the employees inside, which the striking workers have been invited to three and allowed to attend two of the meetings. He stated that the striking workers are still current employees, but they get treated with disrespect, they do

PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED)

not have the same rights that the guys inside have, and they do not have the same voice that the guys inside have. He asserted that the Board chooses to ignore evidence and facts but believes what NASCO and the ILA continue to tell them. He asserted that it is because they cannot give expensive dinners or boat rides. He stated that when their counterpart in Canada went on strike, within three days, Mr. Varela was up there showing support.

Mr. Munoz stated it has been over one year, and they cannot get Mr. Varela to have a one-on-one meeting with any of them, cannot get him talk to them, the workers who live in the City, live in the neighborhood, cannot even get him to wave at them. Mr. Munoz asked why and asserted that it was because they cannot provide the expensive dinners that QSL provides.

Mr. Munoz stated that they are on strike for unsafe work conditions, unsafe machinery, and management that decided not to listen to them when they came with safety concerns. He asserted they have been ignored and dismissed. He asserted that the Board chooses to believe QSL and not them and stated they have proof and evidence.

Mr. Munoz stated the Labor Board has found merit in their proof that NASCO and the ILA have been colluding since day one, that they have been conspiring, and yet, he asserted, the Board chooses to believe what QSL says and not the facts.

Mr. Munoz stated they are not fighting for just themselves, but the guys inside, and will continue to fight for their rights. He asserted that nothing has changed since the ILA came in. He stated that they have pictures and evidence. He stated that the only thing that has changed is that the guys are making more money.

Mr. Munoz stated that NASCO/QSL are losing customers and they continue to lie. He stated that the CN used to come in daily and is now coming in once a week, or once every two weeks. He stated the striking workers have worked at NASCO/QSL for years and they know they are slow inside, and that is because of the strike. He stated that this will continue until the workers are believed.

<u>Leonardo Lopez, QSL</u> Mr. Lopez thanked Mr. Jordan for water and donuts. Mr. Lopez stated that he has worked for NASCO/QSL for almost five years and has been on strike for one year. He stated this is the only place they can reach out to the Board to express how they feel and their concerns.

Mr. Lopez stated his coworker, Braulio Partida, has reached out to Mr. Varela twice, via email, and Mr. Varela has never responded. He stated that they have tried every other way to share what they want, their safety concerns, and why they have been on strike for the last year. He stated they are here because every worker, on the picket line and inside the gates, deserves safer working conditions, fair treatment and quality training, something he asserted, QSL has never given to them.

Mr. Lopez stated that when he is standing on the strike line, he is not standing alone. He stated they have the support of Local 150, the community, local and state leaders and labor movements.

Mr. Lopez stated he believes in Local 150 and has done his homework about the union, has been to the training site, and has seen how every worker can learn and grow in his career and there is no limit to how much they can learn and grow. He stated that he wants this for himself, his coworkers and workers inside.

PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Mr. Lopez stated he has done his homework on the ILA. He stated that they have no training site, and no union hall and asked where can he learn new machines, and where can he and his coworkers better themselves.

Mr. Lopez stated that he believes that workers should have a choice and it is his right as a worker to choose whether he wants to join a union and which union he wants to represent him. He stated that QSL, a foreign owned company, leasing land from the IIPD in the City of Chicago, the birthplace of the labor movement, has been walking all over the workers' rights. He asserted that the Board has been doing nothing about this. He asserted that QSL is forcing the ILA on its workers and is under federal investigation.

Mr. Lopez stated the Chicago Tribune reported that QSL never held an election, QSL workers had no vote, no voice and no rights. He stated this is not how workers should be treated in America. Mr. Lopez stated that after one year on strike, the IIPD cannot keep looking the other way.

Ray Sundine, Local 150-Director of Organizing. Mr. Sundine stated that last month he talked about the future and growth and things that should be happening at the IIPD, and they are not happening. He stated that Mr. Varela's presentation was nice, but it did not tell the truth, it did not include the picket line or Scabby the Rat. He stated that the idea of getting global people involved with the Port is something that the Port should be doing. He stated that the workers have reached out to Mr. Varela numerous times and he will not speak to them, but he wants to take a trip. He stated that Jim Sweeney (President-Business Manager of Local 150) is located in Countryside, a phone call away.

Mr. Sundine stated that if you want real growth and movement, Mr. Varela should step up to the plate. He stated that he has invited him out to the training site to see what Local 150 has to offer. He stated that Local 150 and the workers are not going away. He stated that he has offered an olive branch many times to everyone, sooner or later there will be no branch, and asked the IIPD to please take this opportunity.

He stated that the Local 150 annual family picnic will be held on August 2, at their training site. He stated that there will be 10,000 to 12,000 people there and invited all to come. He stated that there will be food, drink, carnival rides, all for free.

Freddy Alvarez, Local 150 Business Agent. Mr. Alvarez stated that Mr. Varela said that the Board is responsible for the Port. Mr. Alvarez asked if everyone in attendance knew what a strike was. He stated that a strike is when working men and women unite because they are being pushed back by a foreign company, like QSL America. He stated that QSL America is currently under federal investigation for multiple unfair labor practices and multiple OSHA violations.

Mr. Alvarez stated that the IIPD is the Port of the Midwest. He stated that a labor dispute is not a good thing to have when you are trying to grow. He asked if the Port of Portugal knows there is a labor dispute at the IIPD. He stated that the Port of Indiana and Burns Harbor knows there is a labor dispute at the IIPD. He stated that Darius Clement, a QSL America employee in New Orleans, was lost and has still not been found.

PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Mr. Alvarez stated there has been a problem at the Port for over a year and ignoring the problem will not make it go away. He stated the video Mr. Varela showed is missing the labor dispute, and it needs to be brought to light. He stated that everyone (the strikers, the State and the City) is asking the question: why is the IIPD Board standing on the sidelines, instead of taking action and fixing it.

Mr. Alvarez stated that every striking employee is risking their livelihood. He stated that a worker's most important obligation is to make it home safely to their family.

Mr. Alvarez stated that it is a shame that this has been going on for over a year. He stated that the IIPD is leasing to QSL America, who violates labor standards and has put workers at risk and danger, and that it is sad that it continues to happen.

Mr. Alvarez stated that every striking employee is standing strong, and they will not go away. He stated they will not give into a foreign company like QSL America and let QSL America walk over all over the workers. He stated that they have been on strike with other contractors for four years, twenty years, and they are not going anywhere. He stated that no employee should work under harsh conditions.

Mr. Alvarez stated the IIPD has a lot of potential. He stated let's make change happen and fight for the workers and resolve this dispute.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Board, Chairman Solis requested a Motion to adjourn at approximately 9:20 am. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting, the Leases and Agreements Committee meeting, and the Finance and Personal Committee meeting will be held on Friday, August 21, 2026 at 3600 E. 95th Street, Chicago, Illinois. The Leases and Agreements Committee meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m., followed by the Finance and Personnel Committee. The Regular Board Meeting will follow the adjournment of the Finance and Personnel Committee.

APPROVED:

Ivan Solis
Chairman

ATTESTED:

Kathleen Dart
Secretary

July 24, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Public In Attendance	
Ray Sundine	Local 150 Director of Organizing
Freddy Alvarez	Local 150
Kristine Kavanagh	Local 150
Acy Wartsbaugh	Local 150
Alex Munoz	QSL
Braulio Partida	QSL
Clemens Gizynski	QSL
DaVonne Taylor	
George Kyriakakis	QSL
Hector Roman	QSL
Heriberto Gufiank	QSL
Jesus Vasquez	QSL
Johnathan Delgado	QSL
Johnathan	QSL
Leonardo Lopez	QSL
Manuel Roa	QSL
Oscar Ornelas	QSL/150
Richard Betz	
Uriel Sanchez	QSL
John P	
KJ Anderson	Resident
Jack Eskin	HNTB
*Please excuse misspellings or typos	