Port panel OKs lights, will seek state funding

By BOBBY LAMB
Advocate business writer

The Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission voted Wednesday to install emergency lighting in a new warehouse but deferred a decision on paying the bill while the port attempts to get a funding commitment from the state.

The lighting is being required by the state fire marshal following an inspection of the recently completed $3.5 million warehouse project.

The project was funded by the state’s port priority program administered by the Department of Transportation and Development.

The lighting required by the fire marshal is outside the scope of the original project submitted by the port to DOTD.

However, port Director Gary Pruitt said DOTD officials have verbally agreed to pay for the lighting but no official commitment has been received.

The port already has received bids for the project. Low bidder is Lavergne Electric in Addis at $6,829.

Commissioner Boyd Robert moved to start the project to comply with the fire marshal’s order but not to commit the port to paying for the project.

Commissioner Larry Johnson, who supported the motion, said getting money

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industrial uniform operations to the Perkins Road location.

The Baton Rouge operation serves markets in South Louisiana and around Mobile, Ala., and Jackson, Miss., Kraft said.

Sam’s Club Warehouse secured a $1,010,000 permit to remodel and expand its wholesale grocery store at 7685 Airline Highway in an 11,035-square-foot project. J.S. Merk is the architect. Hearn Construction is the builder.

During April, 12 permits valued at $7.2 million were issued for new commercial construction, a gain from eight permits worth $621,562 a year ago. The four-month tally climbed to 34 permits valued at $26.8 million, compared to 48 a year ago at $16.9 million.

Commercial additions—often a sign of an interior finish-out or remodeling for a new office or retail outlet—accounted for 67 permits valued at $7.9 million in April.

That compares to 60 permits valued at $1.8 million last year. The four-month total hit 263 permits valued at $19.9 million, compared to 225 permits worth $30.2 million a year ago.

Home builders obtained permits for 124 houses valued at $9.4 million in April, a decrease from 137 houses last year at $11.2 million. Permits climbed to 506 houses valued at $38.9 million for the four-month period from 431 houses valued at $33.8 million a year ago.

Permits were issued for five townhouse valued at $259,630 in April, compared to none a year ago. The four-month total reached seven townhouses valued at $398,980, compared to none for the first four months of 1992.

Residential additions produced 90 permits in April valued at $858,673, a decrease from 108 permits a year ago worth $1.1 million. The four-month total hit 316 permits valued at $3.5 million, compared to 335 permits worth $3.7 million a year.