Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The New Jersey Maritime Pilot & Docking Pilot Commission September 16, 2008

The regular meeting of The New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at One Penn Plaza East, 9th Floor, Newark, NJ 07105.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:15am.

Pledge of Allegiance

Open Public Meeting Statement

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey, present; Commissioner Thomas F. Daly, present; Commissioner Stanley E. Wiklinski, present; Commissioner Charles Wowkanech, present; Commissioner Richard L. Amster, present; Commissioner Joseph Azzolina, present.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

On a motion by Commissioner Amster and seconded by Commissioner Azzolina that the minutes of the August 19, 2008 regular meeting was approved. All voted in favor.

Treasurers Report

On a motion by Commissioner Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Amster that the Treasurer's report dated September 2008 was approved.

All voted in favor.

Executive Directors Report

Mr. Licata informed the Commission that retired New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilot Captain James G. Keating passed away.

Mr. Licata informed the Commission that Captain Alan Braendly will officially retire on September 23, 2008 after being out for the past year on sick leave. Mr. Licata will make arrangements to invite Captain Braendly to a future meeting to present him with a certificate of retirement. Mr. Licata informed the Commission that he has been in touch with someone at the state archives who has located copies of pilot files as well as other information pertaining to the Commission. He has made arrangements to visit the archives on September 25, 2008.

The Commissioners were given a memo regarding correspondence received from Captain George Canvin a Full Branch New York Sandy Hook Pilot regarding the difficulties in coordinating the timing of docking pilot embarkation on incoming vessels. The correspondence has been forwarded to the Executive Committees of the Sandy Hook Pilots Association for comments. After receiving a report from the Executive Committees, Mr. Licata will follow through on the issue with the maritime pilots and the docking pilots.

Mr. Licata received a draft of the auditors report. There are a few questions regarding Commission funds on account with DOT. Once the report is finalized it will be forwarded to the Commission's Audit Committee.

The Commissioners were given a copy of a draft letter from the New York Commission regarding recent casualties at PST that occurred while the ships Master attempted to dock the vessels. Mr. Licata requested that the Commission review the draft and get back to him with their comments.

Commissioner Daly suggested that Mr. Licata coordinate the Commission's response with Commissioner Dacey because he is the person that investigated these types of incidents on behalf of the Commission.

The Commissioners were given a copy of the Sandy Hook Monthly Apprentice Training Report.

Captains N. Tribus, J. Graham, D. Walsh and P. Kanenbley are out on sick leave. Captains C. Weiss and K. Gadow have taken a leave of absence.

The Commissioners were given a copy of a letter from retired Sandy Hook Pilot Captain Edward Britton regarding his interest in being appointed to the Commission. Mr. Licata sent him a response which indicated that his inquires should be directed to the Governor's appointments office.

The Commissioners were given a copy of the agenda for Port Industry Day. Mr. Licata plans to attend. They were asked to notify the Commission's staff if anyone is interested in attending.

Resolution to approve the issuance of a Deputy Pilot License to Coleen Quinn

Apprentice Coleen Quinn has satisfactorily completed the requisite apprenticeship program at the Sandy Hook Pilots Association. She took her New Jersey State pilots examination on September 8-11, 2008 and passed with high marks. Commissioner Wiklinski proctored the exam.

On a motion by Commissioner Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Daly, Resolution #08-11 was passed to approve the issuance of a New Jersey State Maritime Pilot license to Coleen Quinn. All voted in favor.

Captain Quinn expressed her pleasure at having completed the apprenticeship and gave the Commission a brief update on her experience at MITAGS this past year.

Captain Quinn was issued the oath and sworn in as a New Jersey State Licensed Maritime Pilot by Commissioner Wiklinski.

Public Comment

Comment from Edward Kelly, Executive Director, The Maritime Association of the Ports of New York and New Jersey:

Mr. Kelly attended PAUSA a 2-day course that took a generic look at risk assessments and ways to eliminate risk factors in the port. All participants found the course to be useful.

Comment from Andrew Quinn, Father of Captain Coleen Quinn:

Mr. Quinn commended Captain Quinn for a job well done.

Comments from Andrew McGovern, President, The New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain McGovern attended the IMO meeting in London as part of the U.S. delegation. The meeting was successful in getting Bridge Resource Management, Communications, Situational Awareness, Management and Leadership training mandatory for Federal Pilots.

The Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth are scheduled to be in the New York harbor on October 16, 2008. This is supposed to be the final voyage for the Queen Elizabeth.

The Intrepid is scheduled to return to the North River sometime in October. The grand re-opening will be sometime in the beginning of November. There will also be a big event scheduled for Veteran's Day. Captain Bill Blake is the Sandy Hook liaison working with the Navy.

The Dredging in the Ambrose Channel has been pushed back to late October. NOAA and the Coast Guard are working together to make sure all changes are recorded upon completion i.e. chart corrections, buoy movements, etc.

Captain McGovern will submit several articles to the Commissions office regarding piloting for distribution to the Commissioners.

The operation of the Arthur Kill Railroad Bridge is working well.

The dredging in the KVK will begin soon.

There is a Harbor Ops meeting on September 17, 2008 that will include a discussion of the Con Hook Range dredging.

There will be a Marine Terminal Roundtable meeting immediately following the September 17, 2008 Harbor Ops Meeting.

Resolution to approve the MOA between the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission

Mr. Licata informed the Commission that the MOA will define the financial relationship between DOT and the Commission. He strongly recommended that the Commission approve the resolution.

On a motion by Commissioner Daly and seconded by Commissioner Wowkanech Resolution #08-12 was passed to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission.

All voted in favor.

A. Apprentice Selection Committee - Commissioner Wiklinski:

The Committee is in the process of interviewing the applicants. Interviews will be concluded on Friday, September 19, 2008. The Committee will meet on Monday, September 22, 2008 to go over the list of candidates and narrow it down to a list of the top ten with at least three alternates. The list will be presented to the Commission for action at the October 21, 2008 regular meeting.

- B. Investigation Committee:
 - I. M/V Orange Sun (TFD) 1/24/08 Collision. The incident is currently under investigation by Commissioner Daly, the U.S. Coast Guard and the NTSB.
 - II. Eagle Birmingham (TJD) 4/26/08 Ship departed with tug tied to port side. This incident is still under investigation and has been carried.
 - III. British Integrity (CAL) 6/28/08 Power Loss. This incident is currently under investigation by Mr. Licata and has been carried.
 - IV. Ocean Host (TFD) 7/23/2008 Allision. Based on the attached investigation report Commissioner Daly recommended that the pilot be sent a letter of nonculpability. A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Azzolina to accept the recommendations in the report. All voted in favor.
 - V. Maersk Driscoll (TJD) 8/29/08 Power Loss. This incident is currently under investigation by Commissioner Dacey and has been carried.
 - VI. Isola Gialla (TFD) 9/1/08 Steering Failure. Based on the attached investigation report Commissioner Daly recommended that the pilot be issued a letter of commendation with a copy placed in his file. A motion was made by Commissioner Amster and seconded by Commissioner Wowkanech to accept the recommendations in the report. All voted in favor.

New Business

There will be a Pension Surcharge meeting on October 7. Sandy Hook is also in the process of setting up a meeting with the adhoc committees regarding capital improvements.

The Harbor Inspection Tour is scheduled for Friday, September 19, 2008.

Commissioner Dacey will ride on the Queen Elizabeth II as an observer.

Executive Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act provides that a public body such as The New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission may meet in closed session to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to meet to closed session to discuss such matters.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Commission shall at this time meet in closed session to discuss such matters the substance of the closed session would be disclosed publicly only if it would not warrant an invasion of privacy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Amster that the Commission go into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission took a ten-minute break at 11:05am.

Return to Public Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Amster and seconded by Commissioner Daly that the Commission return to Public Session. All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 12:25pm.

The Commission discussed the need to begin the apprentice application process for docking pilots. Mr. Licata pointed out that there were several candidates working towards becoming statutorily eligible and he suggests that the Commission begin the process 2009.

In the meantime the Commission has directed Mr. Licata to meet with heads of the docking pilot organizations to discuss ways to make the apprentice training program more appealing to perspective candidates.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Amster and seconded by Commissioner Wowkanech that the meeting be adjourned. All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.