

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The

New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission

March 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 via-Teleconference.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (present); Commissioner Brian McEwing (absent); Commissioner Jacob Shisha (present); Commissioner Bjorn Kils (present); Commissioner Dennis Lombardi (absent); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (present)

Also included in the call were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director; Al Hawkins, Board Administrator; Captain Brendan Foley, President Sandy Hook Pilots; Captain Adam Richardson, Vice-President Interport Pilots; Captain Robert Flannery, President Metro Pilots; Ed Kelly, Executive Director Maritime Association; Jamera Sirmans, Authorities Unit, Brian Ashnault Esq., DAG.

Approval of the February 16, 2021 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to approve the February 16, 2021 meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Kils to pass Resolution #21-11 to approve the March, 2021 Treasurers Report. All voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report

The Commission was provided a copy of the updated pilot trip log.

A. Vaccination Update – Ms. Stuckey reported that she was informed and received a confirming email that the maritime community will be included in the second roll-out of the vaccination which begins on March 29th. In order to register, you will need a state issued ID from the appropriate transportation agency. As the date gets closer, the Commission will be given directions on how to enroll and schedule for the vaccination. Ms. Stuckey will keep all updated as the information is received.

B. The Commission received the approval from the Governor's office to proceed with the amendment to its regulations. Ms. Stuckey will forward all the necessary information to the office of Administrative Law for publication in the April 19, 2021 New Jersey register.

C. A copy was provided of an article from JMS Naval architects on the conversion of the pilot boat New York compliments of Commissioner Kils.

D. Ladder climbing update – Ms. Stuckey and Captain Foley will meet with Captain Miller at a future class to review the ladder and determine if it would be feasible to invite the company he is working with on the safety vest she previously reported on. Ms. Stuckey advised that it would be beneficial for the Commissioner Kils to attend since he had a few ideas on using the safety line as well. Ms. Stuckey advised that she will notify all as soon as it is set up.

E. Docking Pilot Apprentices Selection Process – To date the Commission has received only one complete application with an additional five inquiries. The Commission does not get

Captain Foley reported that the vessel in question was the Carnival Mardi Gras and it was going to be a onetime visit.

Mr. Kelly reported being present at the meetings and it was well represented, but he has not heard any updates on the timing for them to try and do this. He expects to hear about it in advance because part of the protocol involved in early alert to the Coast Guard, all pilot groups and shipping companies.

I. LNG Fuel - The Commission was sent a copy of an article on port Canaveral's custom-built LNG barge. Prior to the pandemic there were some studies done regarding the possibility of bringing in an LNG barge into the New York harbor.

H. Harbor Ops - The next Harbor Ops meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17th. It will be held virtually and Ms. Stuckey does plan to attend. She provided a copy of the agenda with the Commission's meeting material.

G. Office Equipment - Ms. Stuckey mentioned last month that the Commission would need to replace the printer in the Commission's office. After doing research and consulting with New Jersey Transit's staff on compliance requirements, she has made the decision to lease the same type of printer that New Jersey Transit uses. The set up comes with maintenance, toner, paper and can also be used as a copy machine, printer, fax and scanner. The monthly payment will be \$87 a month which comes to \$3,132 over the three year lease. This lease will be less expensive than buying a new unit at \$4,000 and saves money on maintenance and supplies. There would be no need to adjust the equipment line in the budget moving forward as the lease payments would offset the cost of toner and other printing supplies.

F. Annual Report - Ms. Stuckey advised that she is targeting the April, 2021 meeting to have a draft ready for the Commission's review. The hardest part of the report is coordinating all of the information from the different sources. She advised that as of now, things are still on track for completion.

many inquiries for this process because of the strict requirements, however Ms. Stuckey is optimistic that the Committee will see some good candidates.

The barge actually will load down in Savannah and service the vessel in Florida. When the ship comes to this harbor, it was to just lay the ground work for the future.

Ms. Stuckey advised that moving forward, the Commission and the Governor's office should be kept updated on the progress so we can insure that the port is capable to service these vessels when they come into the port.

Mr. Kelly advised that LNG is progressively being incorporated into maritime fleets, but at this time we do not have anything that is involved in fueling. There are some legislative barriers in New York and New Jersey as far as doing this on a regular basis. So this is why, it was going to be done once as a barge and not an on land LNG with fueling capability. So if the Governor's are interested in pursuing this, we need to do more than just advising them when and if a onetime barge fueling is planning to happen here. There is long term structural and inter-structural issues that are precluding our port at this time from having on land LNG fueling provider.

Ms. Stuckey advised that when these discussions take place, it is her belief that someone from the Governor's office should have a seat at that table.

J. Articles of Interest - The Commission was provided with several articles of interest and was encouraged to read them at their leisure.

Public Comment (s)

Comments from Captain Brendan Foley, President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Foley reported that all pilots are healthy and clear from the coronavirus. One pilot is quarantined due to exposure at home.

Captain Foley reported that the Hudson River ice has dissipated and the Coast Guard regulated navigation specific requirements for the ice season has been resumed.

Captain Foley reported that the mid river pilot station is now open again.

Captain Foley reported that the point of the hook dredging will resume in September. They have replaced and established the dredging in Newark Bay will be scheduled to start in August and run through September.

Captain Foley reported that spot shoaling in the AK that will also be in the fold between September and December to return the channel to 35ft. The Army Corp. has stated the approval process for the approach of returning basin in the channel and that is for maintenance dredging to bring that channel back to 45ft plus the 2ft.

Captain Foley reported that at the end of the month he, Captain Flannery, Captain Ellis and Captain Decruz will travel to MITAGS to study the pliability of the SULCV's going into Howland hook.

Comments from Captain Bob Flannery, President, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Flannery reported that the dry dock issue is not an Army Corp. project because it is not a useable channel with that conversation still ongoing.

Ms. Stirmans advised that she has spoken to her superiors about the dry dock issue, but has yet to get a resolution in the matter.

Captain Flannery advised that this is an issue that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later because it is a serious issue.

Captain Flannery reported that PNCT would like to take on 14,000 and 15,000 ships, but they will need 475ft of useable channel to go between the two ships. He advised that he will meet with PNCT to discuss the issue in the near future.

Captain Flannery reported that Harbor Ops is discussing the guidelines for all big ships when they transit. The Committee has updated the guidelines and they are 99% complete and should be done by tomorrow to be distributed to the community.

Comments from Captain Adam Richardson, Vice-President, Interport Pilots Association:

Captain Richardson reported that all pilots are healthy, but they have had a couple of exposure situations and all pilots tested negative.

Captain Richardson reported that Interport's Connecticut boat has been repaired and now back in service.

Ms. Stuckey advised that Captain Ellis had to leave meeting and emailed his report, so she would be reporting in his absence. She reported that there is no Harbor pilots out due to Covid19, however there are two pilots out because of surgery.

Comments from Ed Kelly, Executive Director, Maritime Association:

Mr. Kelly reported that Captain Tama advised that he would be retiring at the end of his term, but he has since changed his mind. He will now be moving to Washington, DC to become the Coast Guard's national representative to the national Security Council. Everything in terms of the change of command is still on track.

Mr. Kelly reported Noah's meeting of their hydrographic service review panel that handles services aimed at navigation is ongoing. New York is the next port to be developed for the precision navigation project. The enhanced current studies will help give a better picture of the water columns in New York. The first one has been done in Long Beach, California and has been very successful. It manages drafts considerations and advanced safety. At the meetings on March 3rd and 4th the HSRP also talked about the use of artificial intelligence to gather a lot of this data and this technology is moving very quickly.

Mr. Kelly reported that NOAH has started its five year glide path to move towards providing digital charts. They will continue to provide paper charts for a short period of time, but advised if you like paper charts, you should take a look at when those charts will be moved to digital.

Mr. Kelly reported that meteorological data and coast pilot data will start to be pushed out from AIS antennas. These antennas will have the capacity to receive and to transmit. As of right now, the Coast Guard has only been using them in the receiving capacity, but they are now doing test bed work with NOAH to push data out.

Mr. Kelly reported that New Jersey and DEP is aggressively moving forward with their clean air program. They are

potentially looking at instituting legislation that will incorporate platforms that are similar to what California has in their clean air Resource Board. In response to that, industry is

Looking to work with the Government and others to create a coalition for clean air that will be looking at tracking emissions and green house gases for all sources of pollution. This will impact deep draft vessels, tugs and land based marine terminal operator equipment. He advised that he will keep the Commission updated on how that may impact the maritime community.

Ms. Stuckey advised that the Captain of the Port's change of command ceremony has been scheduled for May 7th and will be done half in person and half virtually.

Swearing of Captain Scott Britton to a Deputy Pilot of the Sixth Grade A

Captain Britton gave a brief summary of his last few weeks of his apprenticeship. He advised that he visited MPI in Louisiana and thanked the Commission for the opportunity. Captain Britton reported that he learned a lot in all three classes, the experience was amazing and he is glad that other apprentices will have the opportunity to experience the training as well.

Captain Britton was sworn in by Commissioner Dacey.

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 legal and personnel matters, and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to meet in 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 or constitute a breach of the attorney client privilege.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Shisha that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:53 AM.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Roberts that the meeting be adjourned. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Shisha that the Commission return to Public Session. All voted in favor. The Commission returned to Public Session at 11:30 AM.

Return to Public Session