

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission**

September 17, 2024

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (via ZOOM); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (via ZOOM); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via ZOOM); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (present); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (absent); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (via ZOOM).

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director (present); Al Hawkins, Administrative Assistant (present); Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, Sandy Hook Pilots (present); Captain Kirk Pinto, President Harbor Pilots (via ZOOM); Captain Jon Miller, President Metro Pilots (via ZOOM); Dorian Smith, Authorities Unit (present), Adam Richardson, President Interport Pilots (present).

Approval of the August 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Kils to approve the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #24-22 to approve the September, 2024 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to pass Resolution #24-22 to approve the September, 2024 Treasurers Report.

All voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report

- A. Pilot trip log - A copy of the pilot log was sent to the Commission.
- B. USS New Jersey - Ms. Stuckey reported that the USS New Jersey, the Navy's first gender neutral submarine was Commissioned on September 14th. Captains Jim Mahlmann and Tom Ferrie were the pilots that piloted her into the channel. The Commissioners were sent pictures that were taken by Commissioner Kils of the pilots boarding the vessel.
- C. FY24 Audit Update - All the information needed to complete the FY24 audit was forwarded to the auditors. The auditor needed clarification on some of the items that were listed on the budget sheets that were forwarded from the Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Stuckey contacted them and requested that they respond directly to the auditor. The auditor is also waiting on the attorney client representative letter from counsel. Once the information is received and the audit finalized. Ms. Stuckey will circulate it to the Audit Committee and will schedule a meeting prior to the Commission's October 15, 2024, meeting to review the findings with the auditor.
- D. Changes at Sector New York - Mr. Greg Hitchens has left Vessel Traffic Service. There has not been an announcement as to who the new Director will be. Ms. Stuckey pointed out that Mr. Hitchens has been a great ally to the maritime industry and will be a big loss to this port. He served as an active member on many of the working committees in the port and his leadership will be missed.
- E. There will be a Capital Improvements meeting on September 26th. Ms. Stuckey and Commissioner Roberts will attend the meeting and report back to the Commission.
- F. Harbor Ops - There will be a Harbor Ops meeting on September 25th that Ms. Stuckey will attend and report anything of note to the Commission.

G. The Commissioners were provided with a political memo that Ms. Stuckey is required to distribute annually. She stated that the memo is self-explanatory and encouraged anyone with questions to email her.

H. Staff Vacations - There are no staff vacation plans.

I. Articles of Interest - The Commission was provided with 2 articles of interest. Ms. Stuckey highlighted the one from the Port Authority stating that the port of New York/New Jersey had a record-breaking month in July. Ms. Stuckey encouraged the Commissioners to read the articles at their leisure.

Committee Reports

A. Maritime Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee - The Committee conducted all applicant interviews over the past 2 weeks. After the interviews, the Committee finalized a list of the top 10 candidates and 5 alternates. The candidates will return to IFP for the final background check. Ms. Stuckey received notification that all applicants have been scheduled. She should receive a finalized list to present to the Commissioners by early the following week. Ms. Stuckey will provide the Commissioners with a summary on each candidate. There will be a resolution on the Commission's October 15th agenda to approve the list. Ms. Stuckey advised that the Sandy Hook Pilot's Association will take the first person off the new list on December 1st. The apprentice will be registered in New York.

B. Docking Pilot Apprentice Selection Committee - The Committee has received one application, but there have been some inquiries. Ms. Stuckey pointed out that the deadline date for submissions is September 30th. She is hopeful that more applications will be submitted.

C. Occurrence Investigation Committee

I. Lori, August 18, 2024 - Ms. Stuckey advised that the occurrence with the Lori was a scenario that was practiced by the pilots at MITAGS. It was great to see that the training is helping the pilots when they are out on a ship. Ms. Stuckey recommended that based on the investigators report, the Commission find no fault on the pilots, a copy of the report be sent to the

Coast Guard, vessel agent, vessel owner and the file closed. Also, the pilot should receive a letter from the Commission commending him for his actions. A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti and seconded by Commissioner Fixmer to accept the recommendation. All voted in favor.

Public Comment (s)

Ms. Stuckey reported on behalf of Captain Pinto. He is working and could not be present.

Ms. Stuckey advised that Captain Joseph Bosch is no longer working on the tug and is now part of the rotation full time. The Docking pilots have begun their recurrent training and Captain Pinto and Captain Miller will complete their training at MITAGS next week.

Comments from Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Ferrie reported that all is well with the Sandy Hook Pilots. They have been very busy and looking at options that would help fend off a potential Longshoreman strike.

Captain Ferrie reported that when the U.S.S New Jersey arrived, Sandy Hook put 2 pilots onboard safely and the Navy was very happy with their work.

Captain Ferrie reported that he and Captain Mahlman participated in the Maritime Stakeholder Dialogue with the Coast Guard. During the meeting, there were different scenarios discussed. The meeting went very well, and Captain Ferrie was advised by the Coast Guard that the 2-pilot system in the harbor along with the tugboat guidelines were well received.

Captain Ferrie reported that Captain Nicholas Pitch is in attendance and will be upgraded to a Full Branch Pilot He congratulated Captain Pitch on his upgrade.

Captain Ferrie reported that the Marine Society's Monomoy Challenge will take place this Saturday. The event will be going on all day. He advised anyone available to try to attend.

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

Captain Richardson reported that everything is going well with the Interport Pilot's Association.

Captain Richardson congratulated Captain Pitch on his upgrade and advised that he will be attending the Marine Society's Monomoy Challenge.

Comments from Captain Jon Miller, President, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Miller reported that Apprentice James Jorgenson is now riding ships and doing well.

Captain Miller reported that the Longshoreman strike appears to be imminent. Captain Miller advised that he has spoken with a few terminals and their belief is that the strike will happen.

Captain Miller reported that Metro Pilots are rotating through MITAGS for simulation training, and all is going well.

Captain Miller reported that there is an extreme crane shipment coming to Port Liberty Bayonne. The shipment is very tall, and the MTA is involved in the transit. This is the first time that the MTA has become involved in a situation such as this. They are very concerned with their bridge and advised that they will participate in several test and will add visual aids for the pilots. They appeared to be more comfortable after the meetings that the ship can be brought in safely. They are currently working through the details for its arrival. The transit will take place the first week of October.

Captain Ferrie advised that it would not be an issue for the Commission to be present on the launch during the transit.

Ms. Stuckey advised that if any of the Commissioners would be interested in being on the launch to observe the transit, to let her know and she will inform Captain Ferrie of their attendance.

Captain Ferrie reported that there have been several meetings between several parties in reference to this project and there has been no stone unturned due to Captain Miller's hard work.

Discussion RE: Hudson River Anchorage - Ms. Stuckey reported that the Hudson River Anchorages were approved a few years ago. However, the Hudson River Gatekeeper wrote a letter to the Coast Guard in protest and the project was cancelled. Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with documentation for review regarding the Hudson River Anchorages. The Maritime Association and other Stakeholders in the port requested that the Commission join the protest of the stoppage of the Hudson River Anchorage project. The Commission expressed their previous support of the project and advised Ms. Stuckey to prepare a letter of support. Ms. Stuckey will draft the letter and have counsel review it before it is released.

Discussion RE: Maritime Stakeholder Dialogue - Commissioner Kils gave a summary of the meeting that was centered around Port Infrastructure.

Resolution #24-23 to Approve Changes to the Maritime Pilot
Apprentice Training Program

Commissioner Dacey updated the Commission on the proposed changes to the Maritime Pilot Apprentice Training Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Fixmer to pass Resolution #24-23 to Approve Changes to the Maritime Pilot Apprentice Training Program.

All voted in favor.

Captain Ferrie thanked the Commission for supporting the changes to the Apprentice Training Program. There has been a lot of work put into the changes and they will be great for business moving forward.

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 Roberts that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:33 AM.

Return to Public Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Roberts that the Commission return to Public Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 11:26 AM.

Resolution #24-24 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Nicholas Pitch to a Pilot of the First Grade effective October 1, 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Fixmer to pass Resolution #24-24 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Nicholas Pitch to a Pilot of the First Grade effective October 1, 2024.

All voted in favor.

Captain Nicholas Pitch was sworn in by Commissioner Dacey

Captain Ferrie congratulated Captain Pitch, wished him a long career and thanked the Commission for all their support.

Ms. Stuckey reminded the Commission to RSVP for the Industry Cruise if they plan to attend and advised that she and Commissioner Kils will attend.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti and seconded by Commissioner Roberts that the meeting be adjourned.

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM.