

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

September 19, 2023

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

Ms. Stuckey called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (absent); Commissioner Nicholas Fixmer (via Zoom); Commissioner Dana Martinotti (via Zoom); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (present); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (via Zoom); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (via Zoom); Ms. Stuckey reported that during Commissioner Dacey's tenure on the Commission, he has never missed a meeting. He, sends his apologies for missing this meeting, he had a medical appointment with his wife that he had to attend.

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director (present); Al Hawkins, Board Administrator (present); Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, Sandy Hook Pilots (present); Captain Russel Henchman, Vice-President Harbor Pilots (via Zoom); Captain Jon Miller, President Metro Pilots (present); Dorian Smith, Authorities Unit (present), Fredric Cohen Esq., DAG; (via Zoom)

Approval of the August 15, 2023 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Fixmer to approve the August 15, 2023 meeting minutes.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #23-22 to approve the September, 2023 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Wowkanech to pass Resolution #23-22 to approve the September, 2023 Treasurers Report.

All voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Henschman will be reporting on behalf of Captain Pinto. Captain Pinto was called to work. Also, Captain's Richter and Tomalo were called to work and will be rescheduled.

- A. Pilot trip log - A copy of the updated pilot log was sent to the Commission.
- B. FY23 Audit - The information needed to complete the FY23 Audit has been sent to the auditor. He has given an estimated completion date of November 17, 2023. If the audit is received by the estimated date, there will be an Audit Committee meeting with the auditor before the Commission's November 21st scheduled meeting. Once the audit has been reviewed and accepted, there will be a resolution on the agenda for the full Commission to adopt the audit.

A copy of the final budget sheets for FY23 were sent to the Commission. The Commission ended the year with a very small surplus. Ms. Stuckey reported that she is anticipating that in FY24 the Commission will end the year with a larger surplus. She will continue to monitor the Commission's expenses and make any needed recommendations on adjusting the pilotage fees.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the invoices for the FY24 Docking Pilot fees were mailed. To date, 75% of the pilots submitted their fees. A reminder will be sent out to those pilots that have not complied.

- C. Liberty Nautical Education Center - The Commissioners were sent an invitation to the first annual dinner for the Liberty Nautical Education Center. The dinner is to raise funds for training programs that are given to students in

communities that would not otherwise have access to the training. Ms. Stuckey advised that she, Commissioner Dacey and Commissioner Kils will attend the dinner. She asked if any other Commissioners would like to attend, to let her know and she will make arrangements.

- D. New ID Rollout - The roll-out of the new ID cards has begun. To eliminate pilots coming to the office, the system has been setup to allow pilots and apprentices to submit their photos and signatures electronically. Ms. Stuckey is hoping to have them all replaced by the end of the year.
- E. Working Tour with Amtrak - The Working Tour with Amtrak was very successful. There was participation from Amtrak, the project Design Company, Transit administration, DOT, Port Authority, Project engineering team, MARAD and the Gateway Develop Commission. The first part of the construction plan is to stabilize the ground. This will be done by building four cofferdams on each side of the channel to strengthen the ground for the construction. The tour enabled the group to view the exact location where the work will take place. The pilots were able to show the engineers how they make the entrance into the Passenger Ship Terminal and explained how construction could make the turn challenging. The engineers have agreed to revisit the planning to try and mitigate that issue. The Commission was sent the PowerPoint presentation that was given on the tour. The engineers will be attending the October meeting to give an update on the project.
- F. Calendar Year 2024 Meeting Dates - The Commissioners were provided with a list of proposed meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year. Ms. Stuckey advised the Commissioners to review the proposed meeting dates and report any conflicts. Ms. Stuckey plans to include a resolution on the agenda for the October meeting for the Commissioners to adopt and publish the dates.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she and Commissioner Dacey had a meeting with new Deputy Chief Counsel Aaron Cruz and Mr. Smith from the Authorities Unit. The meeting went well and the Authorities unit expressed their willingness to continue working with the Commission and offer aid on any issues that may arise.

Mr. Smith reported that the meeting went very well and he believes everyone is on the same page.

G. Pilot Ladder Deficiency Reports - The Commission received recent copies of the Pilot Ladder Deficiency reports. Ms. Stuckey advised the Commissioners that Mr. Maglin was present and can address any questions directly.

H. Virtual Forum on Physical Careers - Captain's Timothy Ferrie and Fred Dashkoff participated in a virtual forum regarding physical careers. Ms. Stuckey thanked both Captains for their participation. She advised that she routinely receives requests like this for the Commission's involvement in these types of forums.

I. Industry Cruise - The Sandy Hook Pilots Industry Cruise was very successful this year. It was a very good turnout and there was a lot of networking done with the stakeholders in the port.

Captain Ferrie reiterated that the cruise was a success. It was a full house on the Pilot Boat New York. It was the first industry cruise since the pandemic. He was pleased with the performance of the apprentices and looks forward to future cruises.

Ms. Stuckey reported that in January the Maritime Apprentice Selection process will begin. The ad will be published in the March issues of the Professional and the Workboat Magazines. The deadline date for application submission will be on April 15, 2024.

J. Career Day at East Side High School - Ms. Stuckey will be attending Career Day at East Side High School on Thursday, September 21st. Ms. Stuckey advised that the Commission ran out of the pens that were used as giveaways, so she ordered bags for the giveaways that should last through the end of the next year.

K. Harbor Ops - There will be a Harbor Ops meeting on September 20, 2023. Ms. Stuckey will attend virtually. A copy of the agenda was provided to the Commissioners and anything of note will be reported at the October meeting.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she is still trying to secure space for the Commission's November and December meetings and she will keep the Commissioners updated on that progress.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she suggested an alternative to Assemblyman Atkins and the Newark School system regarding their request for a cruise for parents and students who are interested in the Maritime Industry. They were offered a tour of the station house, which would include docked assets. This would eliminate any liability issues. To date, there has not been any response but she remains positive.

L. Vacation Schedule - Ms. Stuckey will be taking personal time on September 28th and 29th. She advised that during that time, she will work offsite. Mr. Hawkins will be taking a personal day on September 22nd.

M. Articles of Interest - The Commission was sent an article on container ship volumes in New Jersey and New York. Container movement is now back to normal levels and that is always good for the ports. Ms. Stuckey encouraged the Commissioners to read the article at their leisure.

Public Comment (s)

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

Captain Ferrie reported that business is going well and it has been busy in the port. He advised that all of the Sandy Hook pilots are healthy and doing well.

Captain Ferrie thanked Commissioner Kils for looking over safety equipment with him and he is encouraged with what was discussed.

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

Captain Miller reported that the Metro pilots have been busy with the cruise ships coming in.

Captain Miller reported that he had been advised by Captain Dashkoff about the educational forum that took place. He advised that when a pilot is speaking to a person with little experience, there will be some disconnect. However, it is good

to see where a person could end up working and Moran does have jobs available for qualified candidates.

Captain Miller reported that he is excited for the two pilots who will be sworn in today and advised that he has received interest from applicants for the next selection process.

Captain Miller advised that if a high school student would like to apply to become a deckhand, that person would need to apply for an Ordinary Seaman license from the Coast Guard.

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

Captain Richardson reported that the Interport Pilots have been busy and all healthy.

Ms. Stuckey advised Captain Richardson that there will be another Maritime Forum in November and she would like for him to participate.

Comments from Captain Russell Henschman, Vice-President, Harbor Pilots Association:

Captain Henschman reported that the Harbor Pilots are very busy and all are doing well.

Captain Henschman reported that Captain Charles Fannon is doing a great job and they are looking forward to getting Captain Daniel Zorovich started in the near future once a replacement is found on the tug.

Ms. Stuckey advised that Captain Zorovich will have to send the Commission monthly reports to insure he maintains his recency.

Committee Reports

A. Occurrence Investigation Committee

- I. Heroic Leader 8/2/2023 - Ms. Stuckey recommended that based on the investigators report, the Commission find no fault on the pilots and the file closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Kils to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.

- II. Velos Leo 9/5/2023 - Tabled until next month's meeting.
- III. Ariane 9/7/2023 - Tabled until next month's meeting.

Discussion regarding German Pilots - Pilot Guard Test Program

The Commission was provided with a copy of the program and proposal. Ms. Stuckey reported that she received mixed feedback from the Pilot Associations.

After short discussion, the Commission decided to table the discussion until next month's meeting.

Resolution #23-23 to Approve the Proposal to Re-adopt the Commissions Regulations with Amendments

Ms. Stuckey reported that the regulations with amendments were sent to the DAG's office and after review, they have unofficially approved the proposed regulation. She advised that once the resolution is approved by the Commission, she will send it to the DAG's office and after received, they will submit their formal approval. After their proposal is received, the proposed regulation will be sent to the Governor's office for the final approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Fixmer to pass Resolution #23-23 to Approve the Proposal to Re-adopt the Commissions Regulations with Amendments.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #23-24 to Approve the Appointment of a New Maritime Pilot Apprentice Luke Germanakos

Mr. Germanakos gave a brief summary of his background and thanked the Commission for the opportunity.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fixmer and seconded by Commissioner Kils to pass Resolution #23-24 to Approve the Appointment of a New Maritime Pilot Apprentice Luke Germanakos. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Kils presented Luke Germanakos with a Certificate of Appointment.

Resolution #23-25 to Approve the Appointment of a New Docking Pilot Apprentice Stephen Doherty

Mr. Doherty gave a brief summary of his background and thanked the Commission for the opportunity.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to pass Resolution #23-25 to Approve the Appointment of a New Docking Pilot Apprentice Stephen Doherty. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Kils presented Stephen Doherty with a Certificate of Appointment.

Resolution #23-26 to Approve the Issuance of a Docking Pilot License to Frank DiMatteo

Ms. Stuckey gave a summary of Captain DiMatteo's testing process.

Captain DiMatteo gave a brief summary of his background, apprenticeship and thanked his Association and the Commission for their support.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti and seconded by Commissioner Kils to pass Resolution #23-26 to Approve the Issuance of a Docking Pilot License to Frank DiMatteo. All voted in favor.

Captain Frank DiMatteo was sworn in by Commissioner Kils.

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 Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Fixmer that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:41 AM.

Return to Public Session

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

All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 11:17 AM.

Resolution #23-27 to Approve the upgrade of Captain Nicholas Pitch

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Fixmer to pass Resolution #23-27 to Approve the upgrade of Captain Nicholas Pitch.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #23-28 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Ryan Pakalik to a First Grade Pilot

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti and seconded by Commissioner Roberts to pass Resolution #23-28 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Ryan Pakalik to a First Grade Pilot.

All voted in favor.

Captain Pakalik was sworn in by Commissioner Kils as a First Grade Pilot.

Adjournment

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

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.