

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting Of The  
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission  
August 18, 2015**

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at One Penn Plaza East, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07105.

Commissioner Stapleton called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (present); Commissioner Brian McEwing (absent); Commissioner Jacob Shisha (present); Commissioner Charles E. Stapleton (present); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (via tele-conference).

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech to nominate Commissioner Dacey as President. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shisha.

All voted in favor.

Commissioner Dacey made a motion to nominate Commissioner McEwing as Vice President; Commissioner Wowkanech as Treasurer and Commissioner Shisha as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stapleton.

All voted in favor.

Approval of the July 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Stapleton and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015 meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

Resolution #15-26 to approve the August 2015 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Stapleton to pass Resolution #15-26 to approve the August 2015 Treasurers Report. All voted in favor.

## Executive Director Report

Ms. Stuckey asked everyone to take a moment of silence to honor the life of Captain Robert Moore.

- A. Hudson River Update- Since the Commission's last meeting, there has not been any transport jobs completed by any New Jersey state licensed pilots.
- B. Teleconference with Captain Antalis from Royal Caribbean - Ms. Stuckey had a conference call with Captain Antalis of Royal Caribbean. He was very surprised to hear the complaint and explained that it is mandatory and necessary to have someone man the bridge of docked vessels at all times. In addition to the issues of surge damage, they listen for a change in weather patterns.

Ms. Stuckey and Captain Antalis also discussed about the issues of slack lines. Captain Antalis explained that the lines are monitored 24 hours each day and are always tendered to avoid the possibility of the vessel moving. He warned that if a vessel moves just an inch in either direction the gangways could become damaged.

Captain Antalis asked Ms. Stuckey to remind the New Jersey Pilots that the cruise ships all communicate on Channel 16 for vessel to vessel communication. He believes that the issues may have developed because a pilot was attempting to communicate on a different channel.

Since this last complaint, no other reports have been made to the Commission.

Captain Antalis and staff will also be in New Jersey in November. They have invited the Commission to meet with them and tour one of their vessels.

- C. Grey Shark - Ms. Stuckey previously advised the Commissioners of the Grey Shark's return to the Port and the outbound transit experiencing another power loss. Ms. Stuckey has gone through the Commission's record and this is the sixth power loss not including the fire that occurred during its last visit.

Ms. Stuckey provided the Commissioners with a copy of a letter from the Sandy Hook Pilots Association to US Coast Guard Port Captain Michael Day, expressing their concerns

with the Grey Shark. Ms. Stuckey has also sent a letter, expressing the Commission's concerns and will include this topic as an agenda item when she meets with the Captain of the Port. A copy of Ms. Stuckey's letter to Captain Day was provided to the Commissioners.

- D. Cape Esmeralda Update - A copy of Captain Edward Sweeney's certification for MITAGS simulation training was provided to the Commissioners. This closes the Cape Esmeralda file.
- E. Update on Docking Pilot Test - A copy of the Docking Pilot Test Consultant Ad was provided to the Commissioners. It will be posted on the Commission's website and distributed to the union halls and pilot associations with a deadline date of September 18, 2015.

The Committee which consists of Ms. Stuckey, Captain Robert Flannery, Captain Simon Zorovich, Captain Louis Bettinelli, and Captain William O'Neil will interview candidates and work with the consultants in preparing the test.

- F. Sandy Hook Harbor Tour - The Sandy Hook Pilots' Association will host their annual Industry Cruise on September 18, 2015. Electronic invitations have already been distributed. Ms. Stuckey encourages all to attend.
- G. NJMPDPC Harbor Tour - The Commission's Harbor Tour on July 24<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Members of the New York and New Jersey Commission were able to view many of the problematic areas in the harbor. Ms. Stuckey thanked the Commissioners and the Authorities Unit for their participation.
- H. Update on Investigators - Ms. Stuckey held a quarterly staff meeting with the investigators on August 14, 2015. She noted one of the investigators, Tina Vanderploeg, is taking a leave of absence for personal reasons. She will remain on retainer until she is ready to resume her duties.

Suggestions were made on updating the Marine Occurrence Report form. The Investigators have also been advised that their appearance is required at the Board Meetings their reports are presented to the Commission.

- I. Sandy Hooks Apprentice Training Report - A copy of the Sandy Hook Monthly Training Report was provided to the Commissioners. Ms. Stuckey noted that Apprentice Mark

Wanderer is "stopped up" and is scheduled to sit for his licensing exam in February 2016.

J. AK Navigation Safety Meeting - Ms. Stuckey will attend the AK Navigation Safety Meeting on Thursday in Staten Island. She will provide an update at the September Board Meeting.

K. Port Industry Day - Port Industry Day is Thursday, October 1, 2015. Ms. Stuckey has registered herself and Ms. Montilus to attend.

L. Shipping 101 Course - Ms. Stuckey advised that Ms. Montilus will attend the October 19<sup>th</sup> through October 23<sup>rd</sup> course. The course is the week of the October Board Meeting. Ms. Stuckey believes that her attendance at the course is important and will not impact the monthly board meeting.

M. Andre's Vacation Schedule - Ms. Stuckey will be out of the office Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> through Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. She will not be local but is accessible by her mobile device and e-mail.

#### Resolution #15-27 Honoring Commissioner Charles E. Stapleton

A motion was made by Commissioner Dacey and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to pass Resolution #15-27 to honor Commissioner Charles E. Stapleton. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Dacey presented Commissioner Stapleton with a plaque for his years of service to the Commission.

Commissioner Stapleton gave a brief summary of his time with the Commission and his hopes for the future of the Commission and the prosperity of the Ports.

#### Presentation of Certificate of Appointment to Adam Richardson

The Commission passed Resolution #15-18 at its May 19, 2015 meeting to approve the request of Interport Pilots to appoint Adam Richardson into their apprentice training program.

Mr. Richardson was presented with the Certificate of Appointment by Commissioner Dacey and Commissioner Stapleton.

Presentation of Certificate of Appointment to Eric Lavin

The Commission passed Resolution #15-24 at its July 21, 2015 meeting to approve the request of Harbor Pilots to appoint Eric Lavin into their apprentice training program.

Mr. Lavin was presented with the Certificate of Appointment by Commissioner Dacey and Commissioner Stapleton.

Public Comment(s)

Comment from Captain Robert Flannery, Jr., President Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Flannery expressed that the community has recently loss many great men and he hopes that the trend does not continue.

Captain Flannery congratulated Commissioner Stapleton on his retirement.

The MITAGS simulation program is progressing. Next Monday, a pilot from San Francisco, who has experience working on the large vessels, is coming to New Jersey. He will meet with maritime pilots and docking pilots to give them firsthand accounts of his experience with handling the large vessels.

The large vessels will be entering the ports in October 2016, Captain Flannery believes it is better to be proactive rather than reactive.

Captain Flannery will also be in attendance at the AK Navigation Safety Meeting on Thursday with Ms. Stuckey.

Captain Flannery notified the Commission that Captain Scott Esposito will begin working full-time beginning Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Comment from Captain Richard Schoenlank, President Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Schoenlank echoed Captain Flannery in stating that the MITAGS simulation project is coming along. He is working on a proposal to submit to the NY Shipping Association & Port Authority.

Captain Schoenlank stated it makes sense to simulate the ships before they show up in the Ports.

San Francisco is already handling these large vessels. The pilot from San Francisco was very involved in the study of these vessels, so he has volunteered to share his knowledge with New Jersey licensed pilots.

Captain Schoenlank thanked the Commission for their support with the Grey Shark.

Captain Schoenlank informed the Commission of Captain Michael Watson's death. He was the president of the American Pilots' Association for 15 years. Prior to that he served as the president of the International Maritime Pilots' Association for 8 years. He stepped down from that position last year. He was also president of the Association of Maryland Pilots. Overall he has represented approximately 8,000 pilots worldwide. He will be greatly missed.

Captain Schoenlank congratulated Commissioner Stapleton and thanked him for all he has done.

#### Committee Report

##### A. Investigation Committee:

- I. **STI Beryl** - June 14, 2014. Investigator Mark Clark provided the Commission with a summary of the incident and his report. Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the part of Captain Miller and the file closed.  
Commissioner Dacey requested the date of incident be updated from June 14, 2015 to June 14, 2014 in the Marine Occurrence Review.  
Investigator Mark Clark suggested that detailed damage reports be submitted where possible.  
A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Stapleton to accept the recommendations as amended. All voted in favor.
- II. **Hangin Newport** - October 4, 2014. This incident is still under investigation.
- III. **Maersk Chicago** - October 21, 2014. This incident is still under investigation.
- IV. **Hyundai Glory** - December 5, 2014. This incident is still under investigation.
- V. **Stolt Jade** - January 8, 2015. This incident is still under investigation.
- VI. **Singapore Express** - February 7, 2015. This incident is still under investigation.

- VII. **La Boheme**- February 25, 2015. This incident is still under investigation.
- VIII. **Axel Maersk** - March 28, 2015. This incident is still under investigation.
- IX. **MSC Kim** - May 19, 2015. Investigator Mark Clark provided the Commission with a summary of the incident and his report. Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the parts of Captain Mattsson and Captain Britton and the file closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Stapleton to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.
- X. **MSC Marina** - May 26, 2015. Investigator Mark Clark provided the Commission with a summary of the incident and report. Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the part of Captain Gadow and the file closed. Captain Robert Ellis commented that the requirement of three spring lines may alleviate the issue of surge damage in that channel. He mentioned that some of the other channels require three springs. Ms. Stuckey stated she will add this issue to her agenda for her meeting with Commander Day. A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Stapleton to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.
- XI. **Sam Eagle** - June 4, 2015. Investigator Mark Clark provided the Commission with a summary of the incident and his report. Ms. Stuckey advised that the Coast Guard has sent the request to get lighted buoys in that area to Washington, D.C. She recommended that the Commission find no fault on the part of Captain Wieners and the file closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Dacey and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.
- XII. **Chem Antares** - June 26, 2015. Investigator Mark Clark provided the Commission with a summary of the incident and his report. Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the part of Captain Paiva and the file closed. Investigator Clark and Ms. Stuckey commended Captain Paiva on his efforts to minimize damage. A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Stapleton to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.

- XIII. **Jinsei Maru** - June 9, 2015. This incident is still under investigation.
- XIV. **Celebrity Summit** - July 7, 2015. This incident is still under investigation.
- XV. **M/V Portugal** - July 25, 2015. This incident is still under investigation.
- XVI. **Grey Shark** - July 28, 2015. This incident is still under investigation.

#### 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 Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Dacey that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 11:05 AM.

#### Return to Public Session

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

All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 11:48 AM.

#### Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.