

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The  
New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission  
September 16, 2025**

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on September 16, 2025

Commissioner Kils called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Ms. Andre Stuckey read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement into the record.

Andre Stuckey Read Roll Call

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

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director, (present); Shahima Hudson, Administrative Assistant (present); Captain Adam Richardson President, Interport Pilots Association (present); Captain Jon Miller, President, Harbor Pilots Association (present); Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots Association (via ZOOM), Captain Alex Woodworth, Vice President, Harbor Pilots Association (via ZOOM).

The following Pilots were in attendance for their annual appearance. Captain Craig Tomalo (present), Captain James Britton (via ZOOM), Captain David Graves (via ZOOM), Captain Nicholas Pitch (via ZOOM), Captain Alexander Woodworth (via ZOOM), Captain Kevin Metkiff (via ZOOM), Captain James Jorgenson (via ZOOM).

Approval of August 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Roberts; to approve the August 19, 2025, meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-22 to Approve the September 2025 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; to approve the August 2025 Treasurers Report.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the annual rent increased per the Consumer Price Index by \$88 per month. The Treasure Report includes retro payments for July and August.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the state has switched their contract for corporate cards from Bank of America to US Bank. She has been using her own personal funds to pay some of Commissions expenses and included the amounts on her expense report. The situation has been rectified, and she anticipates receiving the new cards soon.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Stuckey welcomed Mr. Samuel Kovach-Orr from the Governor's Authority's Unit, and he was filling in for Dorian Smith.

Ms. Stuckey extended apologies on behalf of President Dacey. In his 20-year tenure on the Commission, he has only missed two meetings.

Ms. Stuckey welcomed the family of Captain Stephen Doherty who were in attendance for his swearing in ceremony.

Ms. Stuckey reported that two Docking Pilot Apprentices will be sworn in after passing their state exams and there will be a Maritime Pilot at the meeting in October for his swearing in ceremony.

Ms. Stuckey reported that in October, she will meet with the New York Executive Director, Kyle Weist, Commander Jack Olthuis who is the Independent Contractor that updates the Maritime Pilot's Exam, the Presidents of the Associations and the Director of

Operations to go over the current exams to see if anything needs to be updated.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she sent copies of the budget screens for the end of the FY25 physical year to the Commissioners. She reported that the Commissions income for FY25 was \$955,535.67 and they expended \$670,382.71 which includes operating expenses, salaries and benefits. The Commission entered FY26 with a surplus of \$315,415.03. Ms. Stuckey proposes that they continue to monitor the income to see if any adjustments need to be made to the pilotage percentage for the 2027 fiscal year.

Ms. Stuckey reported the information has been copied and overnighted to the firm of Yusufali and Associates to complete the Commissions FY25 Audit. The audit should be completed prior to the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Ms. Stuckey will schedule a meeting with the Audit Committee to take place right before the monthly meeting to review the findings of the audit.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she attended the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the New York Commission where they honored Commissioner Lucienne Bulow. She presented Commissioner Bulow with flowers on behalf of the New Jersey Commission. Commissioner Bulow's retirement was not planned, after reviewing her benefits she determined that it was in her best interest to retire. Her last day was August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Stuckey reported she traveled to MITAGS to review the ladder bata training course that is being proposed for Maritime Pilots. She sent copies of the booklet that will be used as part of the course. She gave a brief photo and video presentation on the course to the Commissioners. She stated that there are some adjustments needed, however they are moving in the right direction.

Ms. Stuckey sent copies of the updated guidelines from the Deep Draft Working Group for transits arriving at the Port Jersey Channel and sailing from Port Liberty Bayonne to the Commissioners.

Ms. Stuckey attended the August 20<sup>th</sup> Bulk Terminal/Pilot Roundtable Meeting. She reported that the meeting was to provide updates on current issues, particularly unsafe gangways and communication between agents and the pilots. The issue with the unsafe gangways has hit a snag. OSHA expressed an interest in getting involved but has now back tracked stating they don't have the jurisdiction to do so. She reported that they are still

working with the Coast Guard who seems to be pro-active in addressing the reports.

Ms. Stuckey reported she is scheduled to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Port Users group meeting tomorrow in Port Elizabeth. The meeting conflicts with the Harbor Ops Meeting. Once she receives the agenda from Harbor Ops, she will determine which meeting makes sense for her to attend.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she and Commissioner Kils will attend the SUNY Maritime's Admiral Scholarship dinner where Captain Timothy Ferrie will be honored.

Ms. Stuckey reported that The Liberty Nautical Education Center will have its annual dinner on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Kils and Ms. Stuckey will attend. Ms. Stuckey asked anyone else that is available to attend, to please let her know and she will make the necessary arrangements.

Ms. Stuckey sent the Commissioners copies of an invitation from the Virginia Maitland Sachs Foundation. She reported that they have developed a Deckhand Training Program and will have a fundraiser on October 15<sup>th</sup> to help fund the program. She announced that the program is a great feeder program for the tug companies which could lead to future Docking Pilots. She recommends that the Commission support the effort and encouraged the Pilot Associations to support as well.

Ms. Stuckey sent articles of interest to the Commissioner's and encouraged the Commissioner's to read them at their own leisure.

#### Public Comment

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

Captain Ferrie reported that it has been a busy year, and they are awaiting the pilot launch, Romer, to arrive in a few weeks, she is currently undergoing sea trials.

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

Captain Miller congratulated Tim Ferrie on his award and Stephen Doherty on getting his state license.

Captain Miller reported that they have been busy with the container traffic in the past month and a half, and the tanker traffic seems to be down.

Captain Miller reported that the Left Coast lifter crane is going back to the West Coast.

Captain Miller reported that they had some wind farm tows come in that have been interesting, and everything is fine.

Captain Miller reported that Captain Scott Esposito will be returning shortly, and Captain Kevin Metkiff is expected to return next month. The apprentices are doing well.

Captain Miller reported that there will be a meeting with the EDC regarding an expansion of the passenger ship terminal in Manhattan.

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

Captain Richardson reported that all their New York boats are finished with their summer maintenance period, and they all are back in service.

Comments from Captain Alex Woodworth Vice President, Harbor Pilots Association:

Captain Woodworth reported that Harbor Pilots were scheduled to have a pilot meeting to discuss bringing in new apprentices however the meeting was postponed.

Resolution #25-23 to Approve the Inssuance of a Center Docking Pilot License Stephen Doherty

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Fixmer; to Approve the Inssuance of a Docking Pilot license to Apprentice Stephen Doherty

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kils swore in Captain Stephen Doherty as a NJ State Docking Pilot.

Captain Stephen Doherty thanked his family the Commission, Metro Pilots, Ms. Stuckey and everyone who helped in his journey to becoming a pilot.

Resolution #25-24 To Approve the Issuance of a Docking Pilot License Matthew Keenan

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinotti; seconded by Commissioner Roberts; to Approve the Issuance of a Docking Pilot license to Apprentice Matthew Keenan.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Apprentice Matthew Keenan was not able to attend the meeting. She will make arrangements for him to be sworn in at a later date.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-25 To Approve the Upgrade of Captain Scott Britton to a Pilot of Third Grade

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts; seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; to Approve the upgrade of Captain Scott Britton to a Pilot of the Third Grade.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Britton was not at the meeting because his annual appearance was in April. The Commission received the request for his upgrade with no negative comments.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-26 To Approve the Upgrade of Captain Luke Carrick a Pilot of Fifth Grade

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts seconded by Commissioner Martinotti; to Approve the upgrade of Captain Luke Carrick to a Pilot of the Fifth Grade.

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Luke Carrick was not in attendance, his upgrade is part of the sixth month Deputy pilot upgrade schedule.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Fixmer; Seconded by Commissioner Roberts that the Commission enter Executive Session.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Stuckey read the following statement into the record:

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 legal matters, 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.

Whereas, the substance of the closed session will be disclosed publicly only if it would not constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:33 am.

Adjournment

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.