

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

January 16, 2024

A hybrid meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, January 16, 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 (via ZOOM); Commissioner Charles Wowkanech (via ZOOM); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (via ZOOM).

Also included in the meeting were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director (present); Al Hawkins, Board Administrator (present); Captain Timothy Ferrie, President, Sandy Hook Pilots (via ZOOM); 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 (via ZOOM)

Election of Officers

Ms. Stuckey read the names of the 2023 officers into the record; Timothy Dacey, President; Charles Wowkanech, Vice President; Bjoern Kils, Treasurer; Brendan Roberts Secretary.

She made a recommendation for the following officers for 2024: Timothy Dacey, President; Bjoern Kils, Vice-President; Charles Wowkanech, Treasurer; Brendan Roberts, Secretary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wowkanech and seconded by Commissioner Roberts to nominate the officers as recommended. All voted in favor.

Committee Appointments

Commissioner Dacey made the attached Committee Assignments.

Ms. Stuckey advised any Commissioners with questions regarding their duties on their assigned Committees to contact her.

Approval of the December 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to approve the December 19, 2023 meeting minutes.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #23-38 to approve the January, 2024 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Martinotti to pass Resolution #23-38 to approve the January, 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. Annual Meeting Schedule - The Commission's annual meeting schedule has been posted in the Star Ledger, Trenton Times, on the Commission's website and sent to the Secretary of the state.
- C. Ms. Stuckey reported that she has secured the 10th floor meeting room for the Commission's monthly meetings for the 2024 calendar year.
- D. Ms. Stuckey advised that she was under the impression that the plans were completed for the move to the Commission's new office location. However, the meetings are still ongoing. The Commission will need to re-negotiate its

current lease with New Jersey Transit. Although the square footage is the same, the price per square foot has increased.

New Jersey Transit advised that they prefer the Commission purchase new furniture to fit with their décor. Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission review the furniture that NJ Transit is purchasing, pick out items needed for its office space and have NJ Transit make the purchase so the Commission can benefit from the bulk discount. She advised that the Commission was prepared to incur moving expenses and will provide for the funding in its FY25 budget.

- E. 2023 Annual Report - Ms. Stuckey has begun to collect the information for the 2023 Annual Report. This year's report will be focused on port recovery and the transition after the COVID19 pandemic. Ms. Stuckey hopes to have a copy for review at the Commission's April meeting with hopes of distributing the report in May.
- F. The Commission was provided with a copy of the ad for the Maritime Pilot Apprentice selection process. The ad was published in the Professional Mariner and on the gCaptain's website. The deadline for application submissions is April 15, 2024. Ms. Stuckey is hopeful that the process will yield a good number of candidates. Ms. Stuckey will keep the Commission updated as the process moves forward.
- G. Ethics Meetings - Ms. Stuckey will meet with the Ethics Department regarding the Commission's ethics practices on January 25th. Ms. Stuckey advised that she had three previous meetings with the Ethics Department and learned that for the most part, the Commission has been following protocol although they have not been fully documented. There are two issues where the Commission may fall short; in person ethics meetings and the three dinners the Commission attends each year. Ms. Stuckey advised that she has since learned that the Commission and staff must undergo in person training every 3 years. She will schedule someone from the Ethics Department to come to one of the Commission's regular meetings to perform the ethics training. She is waiting for clarification on the process to attend outside dinners. Ms. Stuckey will report back to the Commission once clarification is received.
- H. Oil Terminal Round Table Meeting - There was a virtual meeting to discuss resuming the round table meetings. The

meeting was to inform the Committee members that the Chair is gathering information and looking at dates to schedule meetings on a regular basis. The Chair will schedule an in person meeting sometime in March. In the meantime, they will send out emails to solicit recommendations on the topics that should be discussed at the March meeting.

There was also a discussion regarding the recency of the meetings. In the past, the meetings would take place every other month following the full Harbor Ops meeting. There was discussion regarding how often the meetings should take place. The topic will be discussed at the March meeting.

Captain Jon Miller added that some of the other topics that will be discussed are, pilot's rest and access to gangways. He advised that he is happy with the direction of the meetings and is looking forward to them coming back.

- I. Update on pilot's test - Captain Andrew Beaird sat for his state exam on January 11th-12th and passed with high marks. Apprentice Sean Meade will sit for state exam on January 18th-19th and apprentice Luke Carrick will sit for his state exam on January 29th-31st. Assuming that all pass, there will be one pilot coming before the Commission on February 20th, one March 19th and another on May 20th to be sworn in as New Jersey state pilots.
- J. Meeting with Council on Port Performance - There will be a virtual meeting on January 18th. Ms. Stuckey will attend the meeting and report anything of importance to the Commission.
- K. Irvington Job Fair - Ms. Stuckey will attend the job fair this coming Saturday. She obtained a booklet that describes Maritime careers in the NJ/NY harbor that she will distribute at the fair. Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with an article on the Coast Guard's shortage on recruiting and how they had to beach one of their cutters because they do not have enough manpower. Ms. Stuckey advised that when she attends these events, she highlights maritime careers in general to try and address the manpower shortage in the industry.
- L. Pilot Guard Kick-off Meeting - The Pilot Guard kick-off meeting has been scheduled for February 15th at 9am. Ms. Stuckey will attend the meeting as an observer and added if

any Commissioner would like to observe the meeting to let her know and she will forward the link.

M. Vacation Schedule - There are currently no staff vacations scheduled. Ms. Stuckey advised that she is scheduled for one day surgery on February 21st and will be working from home on February 22 and 23 returning to the office that following Monday. On the 21st one of the Commissioners will need to act as the emergency contact.

N. Articles of Interest - In addition to the article discussed earlier, Ms. Stuckey provided other articles that she encouraged the Commissioners to read at their leisure.

Public Comment (s)

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Sandy Hook Pilots Association is having their reorganization meeting this morning. Therefore, they will not have a representative at the meeting.

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

Captain Miller reported that the recent storms have been difficult to deal with for Metro Pilots Association.

Captain Miller reported that on January 4, 2024 a new set of guidelines were presented by the Deep Draft Committee that were forwarded to the Commission.

Captain Miller reported that Metro Pilots are happy for the return of Captain Doug Mattsson. He stated he is working at full strength.

Captain Miller reported that Metro pilots are happy that Captain Andrew Beaird sat for his state exam and passed, but they are waiting for him to be relieved from working on the tugs before he is sworn in.

Captain Miller reported that Metro Pilots is in a good position with manpower even though Captain Gadow is out on medical leave.

Ms. Stuckey advised that the Commissioners were given the new guidelines from the Deep Draft Committee last month and Captain Pinto gave a brief overview of the changes.

Comments from Captain Kirk Pinto, President, Harbor Pilots Association:

Captain Pinto reported that all Harbor pilots are healthy and working.

Captain Pinto reported that Harbor Pilots lost Captain Bob Ellis to retirement, but he is happy for Captain Ellis.

Captain Pinto reported that they are still trying to get Captain Zorovich off the tugs and are hoping to have apprentice Joseph Bosch test soon.

Captain Pinto advised that McAllister Towing usually attends job fairs to recruit individuals to work on the tugs, but it is a little difficult to find qualified people with the labor shortage in the industry.

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

Captain Richardson reported that he was happy to have Apprentice Sean Meade test for his state exam later in the month and advised that Interport is looking forward to getting him in the rotation.

Captain Richardson reported that Captain Richter will drop down to a half share pilot before retiring.

Resolution #23-39 to Approve the Re-Adoption of the Commission's Regulations with Amendments

Ms. Stuckey reported that the comment period expired on January 6, 2024 and no comments were received.

Mr. Smith advised that since there were no changes, the re-adopted regulations can be sent directly to the office of Administrative Law for publication in the New Jersey Register.

Ms. Stuckey advised that the Commission must wait for the veto period to expire in order to send the re-adopted regulations to the office of Administrative Law. She anticipates the re-adopted regulations with amendments will become affective in early March.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Wowkanech to pass Resolution #23-39 to Approve the Re-Adoption of the Commission's Regulations with Amendments.

All voted in favor.

Discussion re: Maritime Apprentice Training Program

After providing a brief history on the Apprentice Training program, Commissioner Dacey reported that he, Commissioner Kils and Ms. Stuckey had a meeting with the Sandy Hook Pilots Association where they proposed to change the apprenticeship program from 5-years to 4-years.

Commissioner Dacey advised that the biggest concern is that the apprentices reported that it was challenging to complete the necessary ship rides in 5-years and the proposed 4-years would make it even more difficult.

After discussion, the Commission tabled the discussion until next month's meeting when the President of the Sandy Hook Pilots Association would be present to answer questions.

Ms. Stuckey advised that Captain Karen Nola sent in a request to reschedule her appearance for the March 21st meeting.

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

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:29 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 11:05 AM.

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 11:05 AM.