

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

**August 18, 2020**

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 Via-Teleconference.

Commissioner Shisha called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioner Timothy J. Dacey (absent); Commissioner Brian McEwing (absent); Commissioner Jacob Shisha (present); Commissioner Bjoern Kils (present); Commissioner Dennis Lombardi (present); Commissioner Brendan Roberts (present)

Also included in the call were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director; Al Hawkins, Board Administrator; Captain Charlie Jonas, President Interport Pilots; Captain Brendan Foley, President Sandy Hook Pilots; Vivek Mehta Esq., DAG. Ed Kelly, Executive Director Maritime Association.

Ms. Stuckey announced that Commissioners Dacey & McEwing were expected to join the meeting at 10:15 am.

Approval of the July 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Lombardi to approve the July 21, 2020 meeting minutes.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #20-19 to approve the August, 2020 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Kils to pass Resolution #20-19 to approve the August, 2020 Treasurers Report.

All voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report

- A. Ms. Stuckey led a moment of silence for Sandy Hook Pilot Captain Timothy Murray.
  
- B. Pilot Activity Spreadsheets- Copies were sent to Commission of the updated pilot activity spreadsheets.
  
- C. Budget Sheets- Ms. Stuckey previously sent the Commissioners two sets of budget sheets. She advised that on the first sheet is for information purposes only. It is the final budget sheet for Maritime Resources for FY20. The second set is the final FY20 budget sheet for the Commission. She noted that the Commission's account carried a surplus of \$392,517.28 into FY20 and at the beginning of FY21, the Commission began with a surplus of \$346,173.60 with the \$125,000 still in reserve. Ms. Stuckey has been contacted by the Division of Budget and Analysis to submit remarks supporting the reserve to be released back into the Commission's account. She has also requested that Captain Foley provide a statement as well. Both statements were provided to the Commissioners.
  
- D. Pilot Update - Ms. Stuckey reported that outside of the tragic loss suffered, she is happy to report that the Commission has not gotten any reports from the Associations regarding COVID issues. All pilots continue to take appropriate safety precautions and for the most part the maritime community is healthy.

E. Apprentice Selection - The Committee had its first interview on August 11<sup>th</sup> and it went well. The Committee was able to interview in person while taking precautions. They have currently eliminated 9 persons out of 51 applications received. The Committee is waiting on receipt of the last ten reports from the career counseling center to see if the Committee will eliminate any more persons from the interview process. Ms. Stuckey believes that the Committee has a good working number at this point. The remainder of the interviews will be scheduled for the weeks of September 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

F. FY20 Audit - Ms. Stuckey had a zoom meeting with the auditor and she has begun to gather and scan all the information needed to complete the FY20 audit. He uses copies of all the meeting minutes, full treasurers reports with all the back-up invoices, forms that are sent to Trenton, bank statements, deposit slips, financial reports from Trenton as well as several reports that need to be run from the Commission's Quick Books account. She advised that normally the auditor comes into the office and takes all of the original documents with him and returns them after the audit is complete. She advised that she should have all the necessary information to him by the end of the week.

G. Harbor Ops request - Ms. Stuckey has not heard directly from the Chair of the Harbor Ops Committee, however it is her understanding that they are moving to pass the by-laws as proposed and then will look to make changes after it is in place. She will continue to make the Commission's request to have a non-voting member on the standing Committee until the Commission gets a definitive answer.

Mr. Ed Kelly reported that the Steering Committee has agreed to adopt the bi-laws as they were originally presented and would work on minor issues as they move along. He advised that there would be a Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at which time the members representing the individual voting entities would be agreed upon so they can move forward.

Ms. Stuckey advised that she had made a request on the Commission's behalf to have a non-voting member to be a part of the Steering Committee.

Mr. Kelly advised that he believed that request was not adopted, but he would reach out to Andrew McGovern to confirm and report back to the Commission at that time.

H. Office Hours - Ms. Stuckey reported that the Commission's office staff will keep the same office hours, but will monitor New Jersey Transits progress in bringing their employees back into the building. Currently, Transit's E.D. comes in 1-2 times a week and the head of Customer Service comes in once a week. Outside of the Commission, the only other departments that are in the building on a more regular basis is the mail room and organizational services which includes maintenance, the security guards and the police department.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she received some meeting feedback from some of the pilots and they advised that the in person meetings were more productive, because they provided more opportunity for dialogue. She advised that starting next month if possible, she will speak to NJ Transit about setting up a zoom meeting for the Commission. She advised that if any of the Commissioners and pilot association Presidents felt comfortable doing so, they can come to the Commission's office to take part in the zoom meeting. She advised that she would keep all parties posted on the progress of the zoom meeting.

I. Vacation- Ms. Stuckey advised that she will take vacation next week and will be on call for any emergencies. Commissioner Shisha advised that he and Commissioner Dacey will be available for emergencies and Ms. Stuckey could enjoy her vacation. Mr. Hawkins has not scheduled any time off, Ms. Stuckey advised that she will encourage him to do so, since he will not be able to carry any days over.

J. Articles of Interest - Ms. Stuckey sent an article that she found very interesting regarding the first attempt restart

the cruise industry in North America that was cancelled because a passenger tested positive for Covid-19.

Public Comment (s)

Comments from Captain Brendan Foley, President, Sandy Hook Pilots Association:

Captain Foley thanked all for their support with the tragic loss of Captain Murray.

Captain Foley reported that all Sandy Hook pilots are healthy with no Covid related issues and they continue to follow Covid-19 protocol.

Captain Foley reported that maintenance dredging at the MOT channel entrance continues and they are still waiting for the date for dredging at Sandy Hook to resume as well as Perth Amboy anchorage.

Captain Foley reported that he is currently on the Hudson River riding on the new pilot boat New York heading to Kingston. He advised that the conversion is expected to take 7-8 months to be completed and the vessel is scheduled to take station in the fall of next year.

Comments from Captain Charlie Jonas, President, Interport Pilots Association:

Captain Jonas reported that all Interport pilots, crew and office personnel are healthy.

Captain Jonas reported that two of Interport's boats have been removed from the yard in the past three weeks and the third boat will go into the yard sometime this week.

Captain Jonas reported that all three Interport apprentices are continuing their rides and training.

Ms. Stuckey advised the Commission that Captain Flannery has been having some medical issues and she will reach out to him to see if there is anything he would like to convey to the Commission.

Comments from Ed Kelly, Executive Director, Maritime Association:

Mr. Kelly reported that the Coast Guard docket regarding the New York access route study is still open for public comment. He advised that the Steering Committee will be filing some comments and they will circulate that so other parties may sign if they so choose.

Mr. Kelly reported that the Maritime Association will be hosting a two part conference on cargo conditions that will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> and operational response on October 20<sup>th</sup>. He advised that they will get flyers out shortly and it will be done on a web-x platform.

### Committee Reports

#### A. Occurrence Investigation Committee

Ms. Stuckey reported that she initially had none to report, but since the agenda was circulated the Commission has received an incident report that has been sent to one of their investigators and will be available for review at next months 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 Lombardi that the Commission goes into Executive Session.

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:24 AM.

Return to Public Session

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

All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 10:46 AM.

Adjournment

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

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.