

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

**March 15, 2022**

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 Via-Zoom.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

Also included in the call were: Andre Stuckey, Executive Director; Al Hawkins, Board Administrator; Captain Bob Flannery, President Metro Pilots; Captain Brendan Foley, President Sandy Hook Pilots; Captain Russel Henchman, Vice-President Harbor Pilots; Captain Adam Richardson, President Interport Pilots; Jamera Sirmans, Authorities Unit, Brian Ashnault Esq., DAG.

Ms. Stuckey noted for the record that Commissioner Wowkanech was in D.C. for a meeting and would try to sign on to the meeting if time permitted.

Approval of the February 15, 2022 regular meeting minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to approve the February, 2021 meeting minutes.

All voted in favor.

#### Resolution #22-07 to approve the March 2022 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner Roberts to pass Resolution #22-07 to approve the March, 2022 Treasurers Report.

All voted in favor.

#### Executive Director's Report

Ms. Stuckey reported that Captain Russel Henschman will reporting on behalf of Harbor Pilots. She also reported that Captain Adam Richardson has been elected President for Interport Pilots Association. She advised that from her understanding Interport has not elected a Vice-President, however Apprentice Donald Occhipinti has been elected as Secretary.

Captain Richardson reported in the event that he cannot attend a meeting, Apprentice Occhipinti will attend in his absence.

Ms. Stuckey reported that all personnel actions for current Commissioners and staff have been approved and all paperwork has been submitted to human resources.

- A. Updated Pilot Log - The Commission was provided a copy of the updated pilot log.
- B. Meeting Forum - Beginning March 14<sup>th</sup>, COVID restrictions have been lifted for state buildings and employees. Ms. Stuckey forwarded a copy of the memo to the Commission that was received on Friday with the updated policies. The changes are.

The masking policy has been updated to state that employees and visitors are no longer required to wear a mask to enter state buildings except for service-oriented buildings like MVC. Employees may still wear a mask if they choose to do so. If the threat level for COVID increases the mandates may be reinstated.

COVID capacity for elevator restrictions have been lifted.

When possible, agencies should encourage social distancing. It is also recommended that measures should be taken to provide for a safe work environment. Those measures are outlined in the memo.

Agencies are no longer required to perform health checks for employees and visitors visiting their facilities.

Agencies are required to provide sanitation items to employees and visitors, regularly clean and disinfect workstations and high touch areas.

All COVID travel restrictions have been lifted.

The protocol for dealing with infected individuals or those that are exposed to the virus remain in place.

Lastly, in-person public meetings may resume at the discretion of the agency. Ms. Stuckey suggested the Commission wait to see how things are going and discuss recommendations for a meeting forum at next month's meeting.

- C. C.E.O. 191 - A copy of a memo that was sent to the Governor's office in response to E.O. #191 was provided to the Commission which required all state agencies to review their regulations and report any ways that they can implement actions that would impair Russia's ability to use its economy and financial system to further its war. The Commission's statute and regulations do not provide for any such actions. These decisions regarding shipping are taken by the Coast Guard at the Federal and state level by the Captain of the Port.
- D. Governor's Budget Book - The Commission was provided a copy of the Commission's fast facts that were updated for the Governor's budget book. The Commission is required to provide this information every year.
- E. Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with 2 spread sheets with their meeting materials. The first represents the Commission's expenses and revenue from February 17 through the end of the FY22 fiscal year. Even with the added expense of the Commissioner's salaries the Commission will end the fiscal year around \$50,000 under budget. The next spreadsheet is an estimate of FY2023 expenses and revenue. It shows that even with the \$50,000

carryover from FY22 and the release of the \$125,000 reserve, the Commission will need to increase the pilotage fee to be able to cover the shortfall of \$92,873.50. The Commission is currently collecting 1%. There will need to be an adjustment to the pilotage fee beginning July 1, 2022. The Commission will continue to have discussions on what the percentage should be, with a plan to have a resolution on the May 17<sup>th</sup> agenda to adjust the fee.

- F. Annual report update - The theme for this year's annual report is "The Road to Recovery". Ms. Stuckey has reached out to some pilots and apprentices for their submission to the report, as well as each association president. All submissions should be received by the first week of April with the anticipation of getting a draft to the Commission in time for the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be an article on Captain Zeita Merchant and the president's message will focus on how this port was able to efficiently handle the pandemic and added cargo while keeping queuing at a minimum. It will then focus on the return of the cruise industry and how the Commission and Associations are all looking forward to a full recovery from the pandemic.
- G. Wireless service - Ms. Stuckey was contacted by T-Mobile. They have recently negotiated a contract with the state to become a provider for wireless service. They have submitted a quote which would come in about 45% less than what the Commission is currently paying. Ms. Stuckey is currently in negotiations with them, but anticipates changing the Commission's provider soon.
- H. Pilot boat New York - Ms. Stuckey thanked the Sandy Hook Pilots and Captain Foley for hosting herself and Commissioner Kils on February 22<sup>nd</sup> where they were able to tour the new pilot boat New York and observe several training drills with the crew and apprentices. Also, on March 7<sup>th</sup>, Commissioners Dacey, Wowkanech, Shisha, Kils, Mr. Hawkins and Ms. Stuckey were given a tour of the vessel and although she did not have her certificate of inspection, they were able to take her off berth. The Commissioners were able to see her in motion while observing the performance of the apprentice pilots.
- I. The next virtual Harbor Ops meeting will be tomorrow, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Stuckey has sent the Commission a copy of the agenda with their meeting materials. Ms. Stuckey advised that she will report anything of note to the Commission at the next meeting.

- J. Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with a copy of the invitation for the Maritime Association Hall of Fame dinner. The dinner will take place on May 18, 2022. She advised if any of the Commissioners are interested in attending, to please email her ASAP.
- K. Ms. Stuckey advised that she planned to take personal leave time on Friday to attend a memorial service for a family member out of town. She will be traveling, but available to take phone calls and check emails on Thursday evening and Friday. Ms. Stuckey advised that she will be unavailable Saturday unless there is an emergency.
- L. Articles of Interest - Several articles of interest were sent to the Commission and they are advised to read them at their leisure.

Public Comment (s)

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

Captain Foley thanked all that came to tour the new pilot boat New York and watch the apprentices as they trained. He advised that the vessel is undergoing Coast Guard inspection and that inspection will be attended by the entire crew. This inspection should allow the vessel to take station next Wednesday and enter into service at that time.

Captain Foley reported that Sandy Hook will be restarting their educational cruises for their apprentices. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month they will be conducting an educational cruise on the Raritan River.

Captain Foley reported that the Sandy Hook pilots are working with Kings Point and Suny Maritime to reestablish an internship program that was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He advised that the schools themselves will identify all candidates and the internship will be for the duration of three weeks. He advised that they are in a wait and see position at the moment before they decide if the internship will be open to the public again.

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

Captain Henschman reported that the Harbor pilots would like to pull Captain Joseph Bosch from the list and enter him into their apprentice training program.

Captain Henschman reported that all their pilots are healthy and working.

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

Captain Richardson reported that all of Interport's pilots are healthy.

Captain Richardson advised that sometime next month he will be contacting the Commission and requesting that Apprentice Don Occhipinti sit for his state license.

Comments from Captain Flannery, President, Metro Pilots Association:

Captain Flannery requested that the Commission's monthly board meetings remain in a zoom format because it puts a burden on the docking pilot associations when a pilot has to physically appear for their annual appearance.

Captain Flannery reported that he has been in talks with MSC and they advised that they will start bringing in 14,000TEU ships that will congest Port Elizabeth channel. He advised that he will be meeting with them to work out a schedule for those ships to come in to the port in a safe manor.

Captain Flannery reported that the Metro Pilots will be having their reorganization meeting tomorrow.

### Committee Reports

#### A. Occurrence Investigation Committee:

- I. Seamax Bridgeport - Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the pilots and the file closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and

seconded by Commissioner Shisha to accept the recommendations.  
All voted in favor.

Resolution #22-08 to Appoint Joseph Bosch, Jr. into the  
Apprentice Training Program of Harbor Pilots Association

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Shisha to approve Resolution #22-08 to Appoint Joseph Bosch, Jr. into the Apprentice Training Program of Harbor Pilots Association.

All voted in favor.

Ms. Stuckey advised Captain Bosch that a date will be set for him to come to the Commission's office for his orientation and to receive his credentials.

Captain Bosch gave a brief summary of his background.

Ms. Stuckey advised that with the appointment of Mr. Bosch, the list is down to one person and there will be a discussion about that person in executive session.

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

All voted in favor.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:31 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 11:35 AM

Resolution #22-09 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Scott Britton to a Pilot of the Sixth Grade

A motion was made by Commissioner Kils and seconded by Commissioner Roberts to approve Resolution #22-09 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Scott Britton to a Pilot of the Sixth Grade.

All voted in favor.

Adjournment

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

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.