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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of The New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Commission January 21, 2020

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Maritime Pilot and Docking Pilot Commission was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at One Penn Plaza East, 9th Floor Board Room, Newark, NJ 07105.

Commissioner Dacey called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM.

Open Public Meeting Statement

Pledge of Allegiance



Roll Call

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

Commissioner Dacey thanked the Governor's office for appointing three new Commissioners and welcomed Commissioner Kils, Commissioner Lombardi and Commissioner Roberts.

Election of Officers

Ms. Stuckey read the names of the current officers; Timothy Dacey, President; Brian McEwing, Vice President; Jacob Shisha, Secretary and Treasurer.

MS. Stuckey read the nominations for the reorganization of Commission; Timothy Dacey, President; Jacob Shisha, Vice President; Bjoern Kils, Treasurer; Dennis Lombardi, Secretary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing to nominate all officers as read.

All voted in favor.

Resolution #20-01 to approve the January, 2020 Treasurers Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing to pass Resolution #20-01 to approve the January, 2020 Treasurers Report.

All voted in favor.

Executive Director's Report

- A. Ms. Stuckey led a moment of silence for Harbor pilot Captain Dennis Sherwood.
- B. Ms. Stuckey welcomed the new Commissioners Bjoern Kils, Dennis Lombardi, and Brendan Roberts. Ms. Stuckey advised that she looked forward to working with each of them.
- C. Ms. Stuckey provided a copy of an updated contact list that included the contact information for all Commissioners, Counsel and Presidents for all the pilot Associations.
 - D. DOT Ms. Stuckey reported on the DOT employee who was mistakenly put on the Commission's payroll account. He is a new employee that works within Maritime Resources. She advised that he has only been on the Commission's payroll since September, 2019 and the money has already been credited back to the Commission's account.

Ms. Stuckey reported that access to the Commission's account information on a monthly basis will not be possible because she is not located within the building of the budget office and cannot access the system remotely. She advised that a system has been worked out with the budgeting office where they will supply the Commission with a copy upon request on a monthly basis beginning on February 1, 2020.

Ms. Stuckey reported that she was able to get the Commission's website restored to the original web address and excluded the reference of freight. Ms. Stuckey advised that she will be working with staff to redesign the website to have it reflect the Commission and the work that is done within the Maritime community.

Ms. Stuckey advised the Commission that the staff had finally received their approved pay increases.

Commissioner Dacey updated the new Commissioners on the history of staff increases. He advised that each year the Commission has a discussion with the Governor's office an appropriate pay increases for the Commission's staff. Historically, it would take seven to eight months for approved staff salary increases to go into effect and he hopes moving forward that the process will be improved.

- E. Annual Report Ms. Stuckey reported that she is currently collecting information for the FY19 Annual Report and has not come up with a theme for the new report.
- F. Active Shooter Training Ms. Stuckey reported that she plans to travel to MITAGS from February 23rd-26th to observe the course that the Maritime Pilots will take on Active Shooter training and will report to the Commission at the March meeting.
- G. COMTO New Jersey COMTO has requested that the Commission host a Maritime Day. The day will consist of an introductory presentation about pilotage in the Transit building, then there will be a trip to some of the pilot stations where they can meet pilots and learn more about what state licensed pilots as well as other Maritime related careers. The students will then have to write an essay to compete for a \$500 scholarship on their experience of the day. Ms. Stuckey limited the number of students to eight to see how things unfold. If all goes well, the Commission will increase the program to allow for more student participation.
- H. Apprentice Update Apprentice Richard Wood sat for and passed his state exam the week of January 6th. Because of his work schedule, he will not be able to come before the Commission until the February meeting. He passed all modules with high marks; however, Ms. Stuckey did give him extra credit on the Laws and Regulations section. There is a question on the test about the Master/Pilot exchange. When the test was initially developed, the Commission had not begun to see the ULCV's or the SULCV's in the port, so the Commission did not consider any specific information related to the use of the tractor tugs. In his answer, he indicated that he would inquire about the safe working load of the bits that the tug will be secured to. This brings to

light another issue, the need to update the docking pilot's test. Ms. Stuckey would like to include a line item in the FY21 budget to set up a Committee and do another search for someone to update the test. It can wait until FY21 because the next docking pilot due to test is with Interport and they don't work on the ULCV's and SULCV's so the current test would be relevant.

Apprentice Robbie Flannery will be testing the week of January 10th and upon his passing, he will appear at the Commission's March 17th regular meeting to be sworn in. He is scheduled to join the rotation board on April 1st.

Ms. Stuckey reported that the Open Ad for Maritime Pilot apprentices will appear in the March issues of the Professional and Workboat Magazine which will be distributed on February 1st. The New York Commission will no longer publish the ad in the Journal of Commerce. It will be published online at G-captain for thirty days.

- I. Apprentice Testing Ms. Stuckey advised the Commission that after the Apprentice Selection Committee established a shadow ship ride as the final portion of the testing process due to the incident with Captain Sherwood, she has been contacted by representatives from Moran and McAllister stating that they are very hesitant for her to go on a ship to shadow their apprentices. The Commission will need to figure out another way to accomplish this portion of the testing process. She will work with the Associations to come up with a better system and report back to the Commission when it is finalized.
- J. New York Commission Ms. Stuckey met with retiring New York Commission's Executive Director Frank Keane and his incumbent Andrew Garger. She advised that her and Mr. Keane have worked together very closely and believes that the cooperative working relationship helped to bring the two states together on matters that affected both states. Andrew Garger was there to get caught up and go over some bi-state issues. Ms. Stuckey reported that the New York Commission is having a retirement dinner for Frank Keane on January 30th, and she plans to attend. She asked Commissioners Dacey and Shisha to please let her know if they plan to attend so she can make arrangements if needed.
- K. Harbor OPS During the Captain of the Port report, he pointed out that due to the current issues in Iran, the

Coast Guard increased patrols but did not increase the security levels. Ms. Stuckey advised it is a real threat and the Coast Guard is doing their part to insure that the port is safe.

He also noted that the Tappanzee bridge project is scheduled to be completed in July 2020. The anchorage study is currently in review. The Army Core has contracted a lobbyist to try to get the funding for the project and get it into the 2020 spending bill. They are seeking 25 million dollars to increase Graves End Bay to 50 feet. The Coast Guard is also keeping track of the offshore wind issues. He stated that contracts are beginning to come in. The foundations for the wind mills will be built up the Hudson River and then will be transported down. This adds another layer of the project they will need to monitor.

There is an artificial reef program that is seeking donations of old tugs, boats and ships. The materials will be used to form reefs around the windmills once they are established.

There was a presentation on the elimination of paper charts within five years. A question was raised regarding the pilots being able to get the chartlets needed to obtain pilotage extensions. It was mentioned that NOAA does have training chartlets for this purpose. They also mentioned that since the decision makers are not directly involved in the port and the chartlets will affect the testing process for the pilots and the Coast Guard, Harbor Ops has been encouraged to submit comments underlying the importance of keeping these training charts up to date. The Commission will submit a statement in support of the comments made by Harbor Ops.

Super Low Sulphur Diesel Rule - The Super Low Sulphur Diesel rule went into effect as of January 1, 2020. The Captain of the port has asked anyone that notices any issues regarding the new rule as far as engine failures and the like to update them. So far, the Commission has not received reports from the pilots of any such issues.

Ms. Stuckey updated the new Commissioners on the Kitty Hawk pilot program. DOT advised that the crafts have been designated and will be registered with the Division of Motor Vehicles and not the Coast Guard. Also, the pilot testing site has been reduced to about one mile in Jersey

City. There was discussion on whether the crafts will be used as transport between New Jersey and New York. Captain Tama stated that he is not sure of the end intent of the vehicles and will monitor the situation to ensure that there is no disruption to marine traffic. After several discussions, Ms. Stuckey advised that she would keep the Commission up to date as information comes in.

There were two presentations after the meeting that Ms. Stuckey did not attend, but did sit through the summary. The first summary was from Pro-tide and they were proposing a computer product that would use the ports current date and infrastructure to optimize access to and from the port. It seems as the port becomes stronger and more active there are a lot of entities looking to become involved, so the Port Community is seeing more and more of these types of proposals. The second proposal was regarding a system upgrade to NOAA. The presentation was to solicit information from port stakeholders to aid in the upgrade. A flyer was provided to the Commission outlining the expectations of the upgrade and the types of information needed.

- L. Marine Society Marine Society will host its 250th Annual dinner on March 9th. The theme will be 250 years of charitable service. Ms. Stuckey will draft a resolution for the Commission to vote on at the February meeting to honor the Marine Society and will present it at the dinner. Ms. Stuckey advised if any Commissioners are available to attend, to let her know and she will make the necessary RSVP's.
- M. Upcoming Events The Maritime Association will hold its annual Hall of Fame dinner on May 13th. A flyer was provided for the LNG conference that will take place at SUNY Maritime on February 18-19th. There will be participation from the Maritime Association and the pilot community. Ms. Stuckey advised that she does not plan to attend, but will reach out and have someone that attended to be prepared to report to the Commission at the March meeting.
- N. Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with a copy of an article that Mr. Kelly, the Executive Director of the Maritime Association wrote for the Annual Review of the Journal of Commerce. She encouraged all to read it.

- O. Vacation Time There are no current vacation plans for the staff.
- A. Articles of Interest Ms. Stuckey provided the Commission with several articles of interest and advised them to read them at their leisure.

Public Comment (s)

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

Captain Foley reported that he will serve as Sandy Hook's New Jersey President for another year and Captain Mark Wanderer will serve as the new Vice President.

Captain Foley reported that after months of delays, the dredging at the point of the hook is finally preparing to commence. They have worked out the problems between the Army Corp and the parks department had something to do with security on the shore side.

Captain Foley reported that the 11 Alpha buoy that was put in temporarily will be disestablished on February 10th and that will allow them to dredge the area approaching the channel.

Captain Foley reported that the Verrazano Bridge scaffolding that was being installed, is still on the Brooklyn side. Last week they advised that the tie ups that will support the platform over the main channel are about 2 months away from being installed.

Captain Foley reported that the Port call for the Mardi Gras has been cancelled due to delays in the ship yard.

Captain Foley reported that the latest New York pilot boat should be coming out of the ship yard from her first phase by the end of the month. At that same time, Sandy Hook expects the drawings back from the architect for the second and third phases.

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

Captain Richardson reported that the next Interport pilot apprentice to sit for his state exam will be Apprentice Craig Tomalo and he expects that it will be during the second quarter

of this year. He advised that all of their other apprentices are on or ahead of schedule at this time.

Captain Richardson reported that all Interport Pilots have completed their BRM course and all certificates have been sent in to the Commission's office.

Captain Richardson reported that after the Harbor Ops
Committee meeting, Interport pilots, other docking pilot
associations, port stakeholders and pleasure boat owners met
with NOAA as part of their new program to give more information
about tides, currents etc. He advised that they are looking
forward to NOAA providing more information to the community.

Committee Reports

- A. Occurrence Investigation Committee.
 - I. M/Y Chanson Based on the investigators report, Ms. Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the pilots and the file closed. Commissioner Shisha expressed his concern about the Coast Guard being under navigational control. Ms. Stuckey agreed and advised the Commissioner that she believed this was a special circumstance and is not something done with larger vessels. Captain Foley reported that typically, the Coast Guard prefer to board the ship after they anchor the vessel. A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.
 - II. M/SC Vidhi Based on the investigators report, Ms.

 Stuckey recommended that the Commission find no fault on the pilots and the file closed. A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing to accept the recommendations. All voted in favor.

Resolution #20-02 to Approve a Training Grant for Active Shooter and Cyber Security Awareness Training

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing to approve Resolution #20-02 to Approve a Training Grant for Active Shooter and Cyber Awareness Training. All voted in favor.

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 10:52 AM.

Return to Public Session

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

All voted in favor.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 11:59 AM.

Resolution #20-03 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Mark Wanderer to a pilot of the 4th grade

A motion was made by Commissioner Shisha and seconded by Commissioner McEwing to approve Resolution #20-03 to Approve the Upgrade of Captain Mark Wanderer to a pilot of the $4^{\rm th}$ grade.

All voted in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Shigha and seconded by Commissioner Dacey that the meeting be adjourned.

All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM