



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of June 14, 2007 Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound
120 Woodward Avenue, New Haven CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:05 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael Eisele, Captain Charles Beck, Captain Richard Barry, William Gash, David Pohorylo, Joseph Russo, and Dave Shuda were present.

The minutes of the New York Board of Commissioners of Pilots for the month of April and May were circulated for review.

On the motion of Captain Beck, seconded by Captain Barry, the minutes of the Commission's April 12, 2007 were approved as drafted. Approval of the May minutes was not required due to the absence of a quorum at that meeting.

Captain Beck advised the Commission that the Office of Policy and Management ("OPM") disapproved the DOT's proposed regulatory change concerning pilotage rates. That proposal, as recommended by the Pilot Commission, would increase pilotage rates over three years and divert fees previously paid into the General Fund into an escrow account specifically designated for pilot training and certification expenses. It is unclear whether OPM objects to the rate increase or to the diversion of fees from the General Fund. DOT is seeking clarification from OPM as to the basis for its disapproval of the proposed change. In the interim, the proposed regulatory change will be forwarded to the Governor for her review.

Captain Beck, seconded by Captain Barry, moved that the Commission recommend that the DOT modify the proposed regulation by deleting the provision for a dedicated training and certification fund if necessary to win OPM support. After discussion, Captain Beck withdrew the motion. Mr. Gash, seconded by Captain Beck, moved that the Commission communicate with the Governor concerning the basis for its original recommendation. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Mr. Eisele will draft a letter to the Governor in support of the proposed regulatory change.

It was reported that the New York legislature has acted favorably on a bill to increase pilotage rates consistent with the DOT's proposed regulatory change. That bill is awaiting further action.

Captain Beck reported that the draft Request for Proposals ("RFP") with respect to the management and operation of the Joint Rotation is still under review at DOT and will be released as soon as possible.

Captain Beck advised the Commission that the Commission's May 30, 2007 recommendation regarding the designation of a heavy weather pilot station was under review at DOT. Mr. Eisele reported that he and Captain Beck had met with Robert Pouch of the New York Board concerning a number of issues, including the heavy weather pilot station, and that discussions were continuing.

Captain Barry reported that the apprenticeship and training subcommittee is continuing work on pilot qualification and training requirements. Captain Bettinelli of Interport Pilots proposed that the Commission recommend that a license be issued to Captain Ted Melancon. No action was taken on the proposal.

Mr. Eisele noted that the terms of Mr. Miller, Mr. Gash, and Mr. Russo expire on July 1, 2007. Mr. Miller has advised the Commission that he will not seek reappointment. Mr. Eisele suggested that interested candidates should contact the appointing authority, State Representative Lawrence Cafero.

On the motion of Captain Beck, seconded by Mr. Shuda, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to DOT that the temporary fuel surcharge of \$200 per boarding or disembarkation be extended an additional six months, to expire on January 31, 2008. A written recommendation was forwarded to DOT.

Dave Rossiter reported that a survey of depths at State Pier has been completed and that a copy of the survey, with soundings, is available for review. DOT is considering dredging certain high spots alongside the pier.

LCDR Alan Blume, U.S.C.G. reported that the Coast Guard is continuing its review of proposed regulations to establish a federal anchorage at New Haven, that the WAMS study for New Haven had been completed and includes a recommendation to light the #10 buoy, and that a final Environmental Impact Statement for the Broadwater LNG project was now expected in the fall of 2007.

The Commission noted that Sector Commander and COTP CAPT Peter J. Boynton, U.S.C.G. retired following a change-of-command ceremony on June 1. In addition, the Commission noted that LCDR Blume was departing on leave on June 15 in anticipation of an August retirement date. The Commission extends its sincere thanks to both of these officers for their professionalism, dedication, and support over the years. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

The Commission met briefly in Executive Session on a personnel issue, but did not take any action.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 12 at the CT Department of Transportation, State Pier, New London CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission