

# ***Connecticut Pilot Commission***

**Minutes of October 13, 2005 Public Meeting  
Bridgeport Port Authority  
330 Water Street, Bridgeport CT**

## **MINUTES**

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:05 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Vernon C. Miller, David Pohorylo, Joseph Russo, Captain Joseph Staneko, Dave Shuda, and William Gash were present. Also in attendance were Alan Stevens and Dave Rossiter (CT DOT), LCDR Alan Blume, U.S.C.G., Captain Charles Jonas (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.), Captain Ken Warner and Captain Michael Ball (Block Island Pilots), Captain Thomas Walker (Long Island Sound State Pilots Association, Inc.) and Donald J. Sheetz.

The Pilot Commission reviewed draft minutes of the September 8, 2005 public meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Mr. Gash, seconded by Mr. Miller.

Mr. Eisele reported that the court scheduled a pre-motion conference in the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots, et al. case for November 1. This conference is in anticipation of cross-motions for summary judgment, which may resolve the dispositive legal issues. Mr. Pohorylo has recused himself from any participation in this matter.

Mr. Eisele reported that he had no new information regarding the petition for declaratory ruling filed by Captain Jonas (No. A&P: 05-1). Mr. Eisele will request copies of briefs filed in the proceeding for review at the November public meeting.

The Pilot Commission briefly discussed the issue of any recommendations to DOT regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> annual review of the Joint Administrator's performance.

Mr. Gash and Mr. Pohorylo reported that they had met with Mr. Jaworski to discuss legislative initiatives to increase the authority of the Pilot Commission. DOT is continuing to review this issue and intends to make a specific proposal. This issue will be continued on the docket.

The Commission discussed continuing efforts to consolidate pilot boat operations. Both Mr. Eisele and Mr. Miller advised that they would be unable to act as a facilitator in discussions between the pilot groups. Captain Jonas reported that those discussions are continuing. This issue will be continued on the docket.

The Commission reviewed information provided by Captains Cashin and Jonas

## **Connecticut Pilot Commission Public Meeting Minutes**

regarding the impact of increased fuel costs. On the motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Gash, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to DOT that a temporary fuel surcharge be authorized in the amount of \$150 per boarding or disembarkation, for a period not to exceed 6 months. The Commission noted that a temporary fuel surcharge should not replace a comprehensive review of the rate structure. The Commission also noted the need to coordinate any surcharge with the New York Board. Mr. Eisele will draft a recommendation for the Commission.

Mr. Eisele reported that there has been no response to the Commission's September 26 offer to provide assistance to the Governor's LNG Task Force.

Mr. Eisele solicited comments regarding the draft Annual Report of the Pilot Commission. The Commission will attempt to complete the Report by November 1.

Mr. Rossiter reported that the DOT has begun the process of renewing state pilot licenses. Mr. Rossiter also distributed copies of FERC's Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement as well as minutes of the New York Board.

LCDR Blume reported on status of the Coast Guard's involvement in the Broadwater permitting process. Lcdr Blume also reported that the DOT's request that the Coast Guard extend the federal pilotage endorsements for certain Connecticut-licensed pilots to include the waters between Execution Rocks and City Island was forwarded to the Regional Examination Center in New York for further consideration. Lcdr Blume noted that any extension of pilotage would be predicated on the satisfaction of the statutory requirements.

Mr. Eisele noted that Donald J. Sheetz, former Chairman of the Commission was in attendance. Mr. Eisele read into the record a September 1, 2005 letter from Stephen E. Korta, II, Commissioner of Transportation, expressing appreciation for Mr. Sheetz' professionalism and dedication during his lengthy tenure as Chairman. The Commission joined Commissioner Korta in extending its thanks for Don's tireless leadership. The Commission and DOT presented Mr. Sheetz with several mementos of his service.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The Commission met briefly in Executive Session, but did not take any action.

The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2005 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at the DOT Office of Water Transportation, State Pier, New London CT.

Michael J. Eisele      Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission