



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONNECTICUT PILOT COMMISSION



Minutes of March 9, 2006 Public Meeting
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington CT

The public meeting was called to Order at 8:05 a.m. Pilot Commission members Michael J. Eisele, Vernon C. Miller, William Gash, David Pohorylo, David Shuda, Joseph Russo, and Captain Joseph Staneko were present. Also in attendance were Richard Jaworski, Alan Stevens, and Dave Rossiter (CT DOT), Paul Pernerewski, Esq. (CT AG), Captain Charles Jonas, Captain Ted Melancon, and Captain Michael A. Peszke (Interport Pilots Agency, Inc.), Captain Ken Warner and Captain Joseph Maco (Block Island Pilots), and Captain Ted Sanford and Captain Vince Cashin (Connecticut State Marine Pilots, Inc.).

The Pilot Commission reviewed draft minutes of the February 9, 2006 public meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted upon the motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Gash.

The minutes of the New York Board were circulated for review.

Mr. Eisele reported on the status of the New England Shipping Company v. Block Island Pilots case. Briefing has been completed and the parties await a decision.

Mr. Eisele reported that he had asked the state Ethics Commission for an informal advisory opinion regarding the applicability of the Code of Ethics to Pilot Commission members. The Commission is awaiting a response.

Mr. Eisele reported that DOT completed the issuance of pilot licenses for 2006. Copies of those licenses were circulated for review by the Commission.

Mr. Gash reviewed the status of two bills introduced in the state legislature – S.B. 519 (concerning the duties of the Pilot Commission) and S.B. 521 (concerning the training of apprentice pilots). Mr. Gash reported that he attended a hearing of the Transportation Committee on March 6 at which Captains Warner, Maco, Ball, and Cashin testified with respect to these bills. In addition, a statement by the Pilot Commission in support of S.B. 519 was read into the record. The Commission discussed the particulars of each bill, including the impact on efforts to form a unified pilots association.

Mr. Gash moved that the Commission indicate that it would not support S.B. 521 as currently drafted. The motion was not seconded and no action was taken.

Mr. Eisele reported that the period for public comment on Broadwater Energy's

application to FERC will close on March 10. The Commission does not anticipate filing any comments.

Mr. Miller advised the Commission that he will report on the subcommittee's evaluation of the Joint Administrator's performance at the April public meeting.

Captain Jonas provided the Commission with monthly reports of pilotage fees generated during 2005 along with the Joint Administrator's accounting of deductions for expenses and distribution to pilots. Mr. Eisele will consult with Captain Warner to obtain additional information in support of the Commission's review of pilotage rates.

Captain Sanford raised the issue of the pooling of docking fees, which are currently retained by individual pilots. The Commission will revisit this issue at the April public meeting.

Mr. Pohorylo reported that he expects to see an increase in the number of collier arrivals at Bridgeport during 2006.

Mr. Eisele distributed news reports of the ZIM MEXICO allision at Mobile, Alabama.

The public meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The Commission did not meet in Executive Session. The Commission's next public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2006 at 8:00 a.m., to be held at the Bridgeport Port Authority, 330 Water Street, Bridgeport CT.

Michael J. Eisele
Chairman, Connecticut Pilot Commission