

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

September 11, 2012
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

Mr. David Galloway, Chairman
Mr. William Lempesis
Cap. Chris Thornton
Mr. John Hassell, III

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. Ken Riley

Staff and others present were:

Capt. John Cameron, Chas. Harbor Pilots
Capt. Whit Smith, Chas. Harbor Pilot
Capt. Michael White, Jr. USCG
CDR Scott Higman, USCG
Mr. Brad Gettelfinger, Moran Shipping
Mrs. Kitty Cox, LLR
Ms. Julia Winkler, TradeWorthy Inc.
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at the Maritime Association Office, 899 Morrison Drive, in Charleston, South Carolina. Whereas, proper notice of date, time, place and agenda information having been properly provided to the **Charleston Post and Courier** and proper notice also having been posted at the Maritime Association Office 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and quorum having been noted as present. Chairman Galloway called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Galloway asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the August 14th meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Lempesis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$5,506.25 and there were two deposits totaling \$6,373.75 with all bills being paid, the Commission had \$1,198.45 on hand.

Motion: Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Galloway asked for public comment. There was none.

The Coast Guard said that there is an Atlantic Coast study being conducted and they will be taking comments until October. They had nothing else to report.

In the LLR report, Mrs. Cox reported the IRF was holding a class on September 14, in Columbia and she and Chairman Galloway will be attending. It was reported there are 2 pilots that have annual health forms due. It was reported the NTSB response letter has not been sent yet by the Governor. LLR will inquire if someone from the Pilot Commission can sign the letter. LLR is reviewing all policies and procedures of the boards and commissions. Mrs. Cox has asked if the Lower Commission had a policy manual. It was reported they do and Mrs. Milligan gave a manual to Mrs. Cox. The manuals are being given to LLR's Legal Advice Counsel Division for review.

On the Post 45 project, Ms. Barbara Melvin with the SCSPA is meeting with the Army Corp. She requested information from the pilots, which they gave to her. Capt. Cameron will keep the Commission up to date on any new information.

Commissioner Lempesis said that the SCSPA is still waiting on NOAA on the installation of the air draft device on the Don Holt Bridge.

The lawyers for the South Carolina Savannah River Maritime Commission will be sending a letter about the SC. Harbor Pilots jurisdiction in the Savannah River. Capt. Cameron said that he will see the draft letter before it is sent. The Savannah River Commission meets again in October.

The pilots are requesting an increase to the annual fee paid by each member of the Charleston Branch Pilots' Association to the Commissioner of Pilotage. This is to help offset the increases the Commission has in their operating budget. The fees have not been increased since 1996. They are also asking for an increase for the testing fees for the Board of Examiners. These fees have not been increased since 1992. The increase for the pilot registration fee would go from \$960.00 to \$1,600.00 or greater, as determined by the Commissioners of Pilotage and the fee for the Board of Examiners would increase from \$50.00 to \$200.00, plus local travel expenses, as approved by the Commissioners of Pilotage, as compensation for each license examination.

Motion: Chairman Galloway asked for a motion to accept the increases and to request a Regulation Change and change in the Commissioner of Pilotage Lower Coastal Area Policies and Procedures manual. Commissioner Thornton made the motion and Commissioner Hassell seconded it. The motion passed.

Capt. Cameron will draft a letter on behalf of the Commission to send to LLR requesting the fee increases.

Under new business McAllister Towing of Charleston sent a letter to the Commission advising that Capt. Edward A. Richardson, Jr. has been named an Apprentice Docking Master by McAllister Towing. They included in the letter a copy of Capt. Richardson's pilot license. They will keep the Commission informed of his training progress.

The Harbor Pilots are requesting a new policy regarding air draft restrictions and a procedure with a required form that vessels will need to fill out if they have air draft restrictions. The air draft restricted voyages have become more common to the North Charleston Terminal. They would like to use a recent DOT survey of the bridge and use the height of the bridge to be 157 feet, rather than 155 feet as charted. They will keep the safety margin of 2 feet under the 157 foot height. With the new air draft application form, the pilots will require the vessels to do their own calculations before requesting a sailing or docking time. The pilots noted the Commission policy offers guidelines for pilots to determine safe parameters for under keel clearance, but has no guideline for overhead clearance. The underkeel clearance guidelines state typical margins and

allow pilots to apply their professional discretion for each voyage. They are requesting the Commission consider a similar policy statement to provide a guideline for the pilots to base safe limits for each voyage involving an overhead restriction. Capt. Cameron said that they have not had a problem with vessels going to private terminals.

Motion: Commissioner Hassell made a motion, pending a discussion between the pilots and agents, the Commission accepts the recommendations from the pilots based on the 157 feet clearance and 2 feet safety margin. The Commission accepts the temporary guidelines from the pilots for 60 days and then will make a policy change request to LLR. Commissioner Thornton seconded it. The motion passed.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

David Galloway
Chairman