

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

March 8, 2011

5:00 PM

899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

William P. Lempesis, Chairman
David Galloway
Capt. Christopher H. Thornton
John F. Hassell, III
Stanly Gamble

Staff and others present were:

Kate K. Cox, LLR Administrator
Capt. Whitemarsh S. Smith, III, Charleston Harbor Pilots
Capt. John E. Cameron, Charleston Harbor Pilots
CDR Chris Marcy, USCG
BOSN Robert Wilson, USCG
Ray Kneer, Moran Shipping
Noreen K. Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 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 provide 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 Lempesis called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Lempesis asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the February 8th meeting. Commissioner Thornton made **a motion** to accept the minutes and Commissioner Galloway seconded the motion. The motion passed. Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the February 8th meeting totaled \$600.00 and there were no deposits. With all bills being paid, the Commission had \$19,297.07 on hand. Commissioner Galloway made **a motion** to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion and it passed.

Chairman Lempesis asked for public comment. Capt. Smith gave the Commission an update on Capt. Bennett. His surgery is on hold until his health improves.

In the Coast Guard report, CDR Marcy said that race week was coming up but would not impact the channel. There will be a Civil War reenactment in mid April.

In the LLR report Mrs. Cox said that a Notice of Public Hearing was posted on Reg. 1360-018. Mrs. Cox reminded the commissioners to file their Statement of Economic Interests by April 15 to avoid fines. LLR will continue to keep track of the annual health certificates and will assist the pilots in knowing when they are due. Mrs.

Cox informed the Commission that there has been one complaint filed against a pilot. The complaint was investigated and reviewed by the Commission's Investigative Review Committee (IRC). The IRC report was given by Mrs. Cox. **A motion** was made to accept the IRC recommendation for Formal Complaint. It was seconded and passed. LLR sent a response to the Commission in regard to a letter dated 09/21/10 where the commission asked if pilot boats could be used to carry passengers for hire. This request falls under Reg. 54-15-170. LLR found that the statute does not cover this request. The Advice Counsel stated, if this statute is no longer accommodating modern day use and needs for the operating the port, a statute change would be needed. Commissioner Thornton said that the statute might need to be updated. Chairman Lempesis said that the Commission will send a letter to LLR for clarification. The Commission will have an update at the next meeting.

There was a meeting between Savannah and Charleston port representatives to discuss the joint Jasper Port. Capt. Cameron said that there was nothing new to report. The Savannah representatives were informed that Charleston Harbor Pilots will have jurisdiction up to the Jasper Port.

Commissioner Galloway says that Channel 13 is up and running at the pilots' station. He will be sending the invoice to the Commission for payment.

The SC Militia letter will be tabled until next meeting to give the Coast Guard time to review the request.

The racon for the Don Holt Bridge has been ordered. Capt. Cameron said that the Coast Guard was a great help in getting this matter taken care of.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

William P. Lempesis
Chairman