

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

June 9, 2020
6 Concord Street
Charleston Branch Pilot Office
Chas, SC 29401

Meeting was conducted by conference call

Board Members present were:

Mr. Henry Hay III (Chairman)
Mr. David Galloway
Ms. Amy Riley
Mr. Joel Britt
Capt. Chris Thornton

Excused Absences were noted for:

Mr. Ken Riley
Mr. Darrell Johnson

Staff and other present were:

Capt. John Cameron, Pilot Commission Consultant
Capt. Whit Smith, Charleston Pilot Assoc.
Ms. Elizabeth Hills, Charleston Pilot Assoc.
Lt. Chad Ray, USCG
Ms. Laura Smith LLR
Mr. Hardwick Stuart, LLR Advice Counsel
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday June 9, 2020 by conference call. 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 on the LLR website/Pilotage 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and quorum having been noted as present, Chairman Hay called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. All votes reference herein was unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Hay asked the Commission to approve the agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Riley moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Galloway seconded it. **The motion passed.** Chairman Hay asked the members to read the draft of minutes taken during the May 12, 2020 meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Galloway moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Riley seconded the motion. **The motion passed.** Next, the Financial Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$9,967.00 and there were no deposits and the Commission had \$18,174.72 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Galloway moved to accept the Financial Report and Commissioner Riley seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Under Old Business, Lt. Ray gave the Coast Guard report. He had no information on the Hog Island Reach or Ft. Sumter. He will check into this and have a report for the next

meeting. The buoys that were displaced because of the dredging will be back in place over the next 2 weeks. He had nothing else to report.

Ms. Smith gave the LLR Report. There was one physical for May and one for June. The physicals all have extensions because of Covid-19. There was no new information to report on the Lower Pilotage Policies and Procedures Manual. Please continue to send updates to the new LLR Web site llr.sc.gov/pilot.

Capt. Cameron said that there was nothing new to report on the Savannah River Commission.

Capt. Cameron said that there is no new information on S. 689. He will continue to keep the Commission up to date.

Commissioner Galloway is working on the Channel 13 recordings. The company has sent someone to look at the system in the pilots' office. Commissioner Galloway had Mrs. Milligan send him copies of the old rates that Maybank System charged when they were monitoring the Channel 13 recordings. He will have an update for the July meeting.

The Commission discussed applying the Emergency Regulation Licenses to Apprentices Ward, Kratz and Rowe. Capt. Cameron explained the intent of applying the emergency licenses. The licenses issued to current Apprentices under the emergency regulation will expire at the termination of the Governor's declared emergency. The intent of the emergency issuance is to augment the pilots if the health emergency reduces their ranks to a level insufficient to maintain pace with ship traffic while maintaining fatigue standards and health safety. The decision to assign the current Apprentices to pilot jobs under the emergency licenses will be administered by the Pilots and reported to the Commissioners, exclusively to mitigate a shortage of pilots. The apprentices are scheduled to complete their apprenticeship on December 31, 2020 and would be eligible for First Short Branch licenses on January 1, 2021, if they had completed their apprenticeship satisfactorily. There is a possibility that on January 1, 2021, the current apprentices may hold both a regularly issued First Short Branch license and a Second Short Branch licenses issued under the emergency provision. This emergency provision should not allow the current Apprentices to circumvent First Short Branch limits during their first six months of continued development following Apprenticeship. If the emergency declaration is still in place after December 31, 2021, the current Apprentices are expected to pilot according to First Short Branch limits unless the intent of this emergency provision applies, and a shortage of pilots exists that can be mitigated by applying their Second Short Branch licenses as issued under the emergency provision. Upon termination of the Governor's declared emergency, the intent is that the only applicable license and Short Branch limits will be that which is consistent with normal procedures applicable at that time.

Mr. Stuart asked the Commission to make a motion to move forward with the emergency licenses. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to have the Commission issue temporary emergency licenses to the current apprentices at the level of Second Short Branch Pilots for the duration of the public health state of emergency and that the Commission waive the license fee for these apprentices during the State of Emergency. Commissioner Riley seconded it. **The motion passed.**

Capt. Bob Upton would like to be registered to pilotage in Port Royal, South Carolina. The port is administered by the regulations and policies of the Lower Coastal Commission. Capt. Cameron has been in contact with Capt. Upton and informed him that

he would need to pay the annual registration fee of \$960.00 to the Commission, submit a physical exam that covers the Coast Guard's Physical requirements and submit a drug testing certification. He is in the process of working on these requirements. There is not a lot of activity right now in Port Royal. The pilots are expecting some small cruise ships over the next couple of weeks. The pilots have requested that the cruise ships submit updated channel surveys. The cruise companies are working on this. Pilots are working on getting familiar with Port Royal Sound. The fees are the same in Port Royal as they are in Charleston.

Under new business Owen Gregory will be taking over the duties of the secretary for the Pilot Commission. Mrs. Milligan will stay on for a couple of months to help with the transition.

There were no Commissioner comments.

There were no legal comments.

There were no public comments.

There were no announcements.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Hay III
Chairman

Noreen K. Milligan
Secretary