

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

September 8, 2020

Charleston Branch Pilots Association Office

6 Concord Street

Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Meeting was conducted by Conference Call

Board Members Present:

Mr. Henry Hay III (Chairman)

Mr. David Galloway

Mr. Joel Britt

Capt. Chris Thornton

Excused Absences were noted for:

Ms. Amy Riley

Mr. Darrell Johnson

Staff and Others Present:

Capt. John Cameron , Pilot Commission Consultant

Capt. Whit Smith, Charleston Pilots Assoc.

Ms. Elizabeth Hills, Charleston Pilot Assoc.

Ms. Laura Smith, LLR

Mr. Hardwick Stuart, LLR Advice Counsel

Mr. Nick Wong, Charleston Maritime Assoc.

Lt. Richard Keefauver, USCG

Ms. Owen Gregory, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday September 8, 2020 by conference call. 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 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 referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Hay asked the Commission to approve the agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Britt seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairman Hay asked the members to read and review the draft of minutes taken during the August 11, 2020 meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Britt seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairman Hay asked the members to review the financial report. Motion: Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the financial report and Commissioner Britt seconded. **The motion passed.**

Under old business, Lt. Keefauver reported for the Coast Guard. Wando Buoys 2,3,4,5,6 ,and 7 will be relocated for dredging. The Army Corps is looking to set up a meeting and presentation with the Charleston Pilots and the Coast Guard to present where the Wando range will be relocated. Lt. Keefauver reported that there is a sunken buoy hull located outside of the channel under the buoy #9 location. Divers are unable to locate it at this time. They will continue their location efforts at a later date when weather and availability of dive assets allow for it.

Commissioner Galloway reported that he had spoken to Kevin at Cantey Technology Solutions regarding channel 13 recording. The hardware is running fine with Windows 7. The Commission should receive a quote in the next month from Kevin regarding maintenance and back up and to make sure the software is still viable and can be run.

Capt. Cameron advised the Commission that there is nothing new to report on the Savannah River Commission.

Ms. Smith reported for LLR. Ms. Smith advised that due to Covid-19, physical postponements are still in effect. None are due at this time. Capt. Cameron reported that all pilots have kept up with their scheduled physicals during this time.

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

Capt. Cameron reported that the issuance of the Ladder Letter has been well received by Maersk, MSC and Hapag Lloyd. Capt. Cameron received positive and enthusiastic replies from the lines and they are greatly appreciative of the initiative being taken and will distribute the letters to the appropriate parties. The letter will also be distributed to all of the agents for further distribution to their customers/vessels.

Capt. Cameron reported that two vessels in late August had pilot ladders that did not properly configure with the trap doors. Pilots were able to make the choice to climb the ladders and board the vessels and report the issues. The Coast Guard was notified and followed up with the vessels regarding those discrepancies. The Charleston Pilots notified other pilot groups at subsequent ports regarding the ladders of those ships.

Under New Business, Capt. Cameron updated the Commission that the apprentices are nearing completion of their apprenticeship and that test dates will be announced soon. The Commission will be receiving reports going forward.

Capt. Thornton reported on the deferred rate increase from March/April. It will be enacted October1 ,2020. Shipping Lines and Agents have been notified of the rate increase.

Capt. Cameron reported on a marine casualty while docking a RORO at TC Dock. He also reported that Captains Logan and Thornton had a near miss with a dredge tender two weeks ago. The dredge company has taken appropriate action regarding the issue.

There were no legal comments.

There were no public comments.

Nick Wong thanked Capt. Cameron for his presentation to the Harbor Safety Committee regarding pilot boarding ladder concerns.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Hay III
Chairman

A.Owen Gregory
Secretary