

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

April 17, 2012
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

Mr. David Galloway, Chairman
Capt. Chris Thornton
Mr. John Hassell, III
Mr. William Lempesis
Mr. Stanley Gamble (Ken Riley)

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. Ken Riley
Mrs. Kate K. Cox

Staff and others present were:

Capt. Whit Smith, Chas. Harbor Pilots
Capt. John Cameron, Chas. Harbor Pilots
CDR Scott Higman, USCG
CDR Jason Merriweather, USCG
Mr. Sean O'Toole, Hapag Lloyd
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, April 17, 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 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 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 March 13th meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion. Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$642.99 and there were no deposits. With all bills being paid, the Commission had \$187.20 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Lempesis seconded the motion.

Chairman Galloway asked for public comment. There was none.

The Coast Guard reported that the spring and summer marine events will be starting soon.

Mrs. Cox was not in attendance with an excused absence; however, she sent her LLR report. It was reported the "Clean-up bill" is moving through the Legislature and is scheduled for June 6, 2012 expiration. Senate Bill 1299 has been introduced regarding the Upper Commission in statute for Section 54-15-20 in order to add two (2) more

members to the Upper Commission from the Georgetown Delegation selection; and therefore it would propose taking that Commission from six (6) to eight (8) members. It was reported four (4) pilots have annual health forms coming due and all others are current.

There was nothing new to report on the Post 45 project. The Army Corp. is working all requests into the study.

Commissioner Lempesis and Capt. Smith reported they were on an OOCL vessel that has an air draft restriction with the Don Holt Bridge; and they were able to determine that there is 157 ft. under the center span at mean high water and that they have one more foot for a safety factor. They will have another update for the next meeting.

It was reported the two (2) PAC cranes are at the WWT. It was also reported the Port has their maintenance department doing some repairs on them at this time but they will be up and running in the next week to work vessels.

Capt. Cameron informed the Commission that the new drug program is in place and working well. It was reported the pilots are very pleased with the outcome.

Chairman Galloway asked if there was any comment from the public in reference to the CPI rate increase. Mr. Sean O'Toole asked if he could address the Commission. He asked them to keep in mind that costs are factored in when new lines are looking to do business here. Commissioner Hassell asked how the pilot's rates compared to other ports. Capt. Smith said that Charleston is 40% less than New York, 20% less than Norfolk and the same as Savannah. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell made the motion for the increase and Commissioner Lempesis seconded it. The rate increase will start on June 1, 2012. It was noted that this increase is not part of a statute or regulation fee.

Under new business letters were sent to Governor Haley on the National Transportation Fatigue Study and to Investigative Associates on the new drug program. It was noted information for a fuel surcharge report will be added to the Commissioners folders. Commissioner Lempesis informed that Commission that a yacht caught fire in the Harbor on April 13th and sank. He thanked the Coast Guard for their help. The yacht was salvaged on Saturday by Salmons Dredging. There were no injuries from the fire.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

David Galloway
Chairman