

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

February 12, 2013
899 Morrison Drive
Charleston, SC 29402

Board members present were:

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

Excused absence was noted for:

Mr. Henry Hay
Mr. Ken Riley

Staff and others present were:

Capt. John Cameron, Chas. Harbor Pilots
Capt. Whit Smith, Chas. Harbor Pilot
CDR Scott Higman, USCG
Mrs. Kitty Cox, LLR
Ms. Pam Zaresk, Maritime Assoc.
Mr. Denver Merrill, Maritime Assoc.
Mr. Tyrone Richardson, Post & Courier
Ms. Julia Winkler, TradeWorthy Inc.
Mrs. Noreen Milligan, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 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 January 8th meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Hassell moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed. Next, the Finance Report showed that checks written since the last meeting totaled \$3,366.20 and there was one deposit of \$4,825.00 with all bills being paid, the Commission had \$1,917.40 on hand. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the Finance Report and Commissioner Hassell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Lempesis asked for public comment. Mr. Richardson introduced himself to the Commission.

The Coast Guard did not have anything new to report at this time.

Under the LLR report there were 2 physicals for February and 3 that are due for March. The request for increasing pilot fees is still under evaluation. The web site for

the Pilot Commission is now located at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/pilotage. The application for Pilot Apprentice is now located on this site along with the Affidavit of Eligibility form. Any additions to the site are reviewed by the Commission's advice attorney before being placed on the site. Mrs. Cox reminded the Commission to file their Economic Interest Statements by April 15, 2013.

There was nothing new to report on the DOT Air draft on the Don Holt Bridge.

There was nothing new to report on the Savannah River Maritime Commission.

The pilot fee increase is still under evaluation. Chairman Lempesis informed the Commission that he has been asked to come to Columbia on February 21st to meet with LLR Director Pisarik. Capt. Cameron offered to go with Chairman Lempesis as the consultant to the Commission.

The new air draft policy is going well. Chairman Lempesis advised Mrs. Milligan that it could be taken off the agenda. Capt. Cameron said to reprint the Policy and Procedure manual the most cost effective would be to make 3 ring binders. The cost is \$5.00 per binder. **Motion:** Chairman Lempesis asked for a motion to change the policy manual from bound to a 3 ring binder. Commissioner Thornton made the motion and Commissioner Hassell seconded it. The motion passed.

The racon on the Don Holt is working. Commissioner Thornton said that the racon is working on both bridges but is not very satisfactory. Chairman Lempesis asked Capt. Cameron to have the contractor and pilots get together and see if they can come up with some kind of solution. He will report back at the next meeting.

The pilot web site was discussed under the LLR report. The pilot apprentice application is now on the new site. A new fee page was introduced to replace the one that is on the site. **Motion:** Chairman Lempesis asked for a motion to replace the old fee page with the new one. Commissioner Galloway made the motion and Commissioner Hassell seconded it. The motion passed. Capt. Cameron will send the new fee page to Mrs. Cox electronically. It will be reviewed by the Commission's advice attorney and then placed on the site.

There has been no new mechanical or power failure on vessels this past month.

Under New Business Commissioner Galloway informed the Commission that a power line had been cut and the Channel 13 line in the north quarter was not working. The Midstream was being covered under the downtown base. He will have an update at the next meeting.

The Harbor Pilots submitted their COLA rate increase to the Commission. The present rate of \$59.02 GT (Gross Tonnage) would be increased to \$60.05 Gt. The present rate of \$24.01 DF (Draft Ft) would be increased to \$24.45 DF. They are also asking for the minimum pilotage fee of \$1000.00 to be increased to \$1,200.00 and the \$250.00 charge to be increased to \$300.00 for single-zone shifts and \$325.00 for multi-zone shifts. The increases would go into effect April 1, 2013. The Commission will run an ad in the Post and Courier with the suggested rate increases. The next meeting will be held on March 19th so that interested parties have 30 days to respond.

Capt. Smith said that the pilots are having a problem with depths at the private terminals. They are not sure who is in charge of soundings. Commissioner Hassell asked if there is any maintenance dredging being done. Capt. Cameron said not at this

time. Chairman Lempesis questioned if this was the responsibility of the pilots and Commission. He asked the Coast Guard if this fell under their jurisdiction. CDR Higman said that it is the responsibility of the facility or companies to make sure there is enough water to berth vessels at their docks. Capt. Cameron said he will see if he can have more information on this for the next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen K. Milligan
Executive Secretary

William P. Lempesis
Chairman