

Connecticut Pilot Commission Regular Public Meeting March 1, 2022
Connecticut Port Authority Office - Remotely
Old Saybrook, CT

Meeting Minutes

In response to concerns regarding the spread of coronavirus disease, and in the interest of the safety and well-being of participation, the meeting was held remotely by conference call (as permitted by Executive Order 7B).

1. Call to Order – The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Gash at 09:04 am.
CPC members in Attendance: Mike Eisele, Dave Pohorylo, Wynn Bohonon, John Henshaw, Chris Clark, Joe Maco (9:32am), Captain Peszke
CPC Members Absent: Ralph Goglientino
Port Authority Staff: Joe Salvatore
Public: Captain Meade, Captain Jonas (9:16am), Captain Murray (9:32am), Captain Toby, Captain Richardson, Sean Byrnes (Interport Council), Captain Astles, Wrowland (NY Board of Pilots), Alex (NY/NJ Harbor Pilot)

2. Summary Report – Approval of January 4th (As amended)
Motion: Bohonon
Second: Pohorylo
Abstained: none
Opposed: Pohorylo
Roll call in favor: Eisele, Henshaw, Bohonon, Clark, Gash, Peszke,
Absent for vote: Maco

Summary Report – Approval of February 23rd (Recorded)
Motion: Bohonon
Second: Clark
Abstained: none
Roll call in favor: Pohorylo, Gash, Bohonon, Clark, Eisele, Peszke, Henshaw
Absent for vote: Maco

3. Public Comments – None
4. U.S. Coast Guard - None
5. Continuing Business
 - A. Discussion-Pilot Safety Equipment & Training Reimbursement Regulations CGS 15-14-1c Additional Fees.
Points of Discussion;
 - Interport Pilots submitted a document for CPC review on the look-ahead of the pilots training needed near-term and long-term. These are recommendations from Interport Pilots to CPC and ultimately to the CPA for funding guidance.

- Gash suggested to the CPC Commissioners to weigh-in over the next 30-days on the document and provide comments back to Interport Pilots. Captains Toby and Meade are the contacts for this document.
 - Eisele commented that this is the kind of work the CPC wants to see out of Interport Pilots. CPC will need to find additional funding in order to meet the goals of the pilots training needs.
 - Captain Toby noted the next wave of MITAGS training is coming up this May. Approval is needed in advance of the training by the CPC.
 - Captain Jonas noted that the improved dredging of New Haven Harbor to -42-foot draft will bring in larger ships with larger tractor tugs needed. Training is needed for the increased size ships and tugs. This training should happen in the near future as the dredging may happen 1-year earlier.
- B. CT Pilot Apprentice Training Discussion and Progress Update (Interport)
- Captain Peszke provide an update on Captain Butlers progress thus far as he just enter the apprentice program. He has not completed all 24 in/out trips. In the next couple weeks he should complete.
 - Eisele asked if Western LIS or Bridgeport Harbor are included in the training. Peszke replied no. Point Judith and New Haven Harbor and some trips in the Thames River are the focus of the training.
 - Salvatore asked if there are trips within the night time, dusk, dawn per regulations. Peszke replied yes, he is getting after darkness trips per the percentage required.
 - Gash commented that the pilot has to be proficient and diversity of vessel types and sizes.
- C. CPA Legislative Update – Henshaw provided an update that the change in legislation is on the agenda of the Transportation Committee to hold a public hearing. Pohorylo stated when the hearing is held Gash should be present as well as Eisele who drafted the language. Attendance if you are able.
- D. Update on Involving CT Pilot and the Grounding of M/V Great Comfort on February 15, 2022.
- Gash provided an update that the USCG is still investigating. The item will remain on the agenda for future discussions. Contact is in process to seek out the Attorney General responsible to support the CPC. Other Commissioners may be asked to participate in future discussions.
 - Pohorylo commented that he has not made contact with the Attorney General for CPC on this matter. He is in contact with the Attorney General’s Office on maritime issues. He will provide a contact for the Attorney General assigned to the CPC. Gash will then make the call.
 - Henshaw asked Pohorylo does the Attorney General have any maritime experience, they do in some capacity was the response.

6. New Business

A. Interport Pilots Request/Pre-authorization Approval – MITAGS Tractor Tug 2-Day Course.

CPA reviewed the request and noted that there is sufficient detail or clarity missing from the request. Items needing revisions; lodging, number of pilots, and detail on venue as far as all-inclusive of meals or not.

Motion: To approve pre-authorization of the subject MITAGS Training for two pilots subject to revision of the request submitted.

Motion: Eisele

Second: Bohonon

Roll call taken in favor, Pohorylo, Gash, Bohonon, Henshaw, Eisele, Maco, Peszke, Clark

Opposed: none

Abstentions: none

B. Assignment of Remaining Apprentice Pilot Candidates to Interport Pilots for Training. Chairmen Gash opened the discussion stating that the industry is trending towards increased traffic in the next 1-2 years. When the original vote by the CPC was taken to only select one pilot, certain commissioners discussed selecting more than one or all four. It is now suggested that all four get selected to start training. The CPC wants to avoid being behind due to the increase in New London and Bridgeport. CPC wants to build a robust pilot organization for the future.

The other 3-candidates, two from CT and one from NYS.

Eisele, the pilot's position has not changed since the last discussion. Interport is only seeking the one pilot.

Gash, not sure you (pilots) have enough pilots for the increase, leaves CT shorthanded.

Pohorylo and Bohonon made recommendations to bring in all four candidates.

Salvatore, State Pier New London will begin receiving vessels the first quarter of 2023.

Maco, There is no obligation or financial obligation for interport to take on the pilots. As shipping increases so will the training fund. The apprentices will want to expand their training. It is the responsibility of the pilot and not CPA.

Bohonon, in conducting oral interviews, there are other parts to the applicants scoring. The scoring was very close, 1-2 points. Currently there is not enough work to make an adequate living. Working with an assumption/condition that there will be more work in the future is risky.

Pohorylo, is there is a pilot that will continue in the current program with no surety is a pilot we would like to have.

Peszke, reiterated the Interport Pilots stance. Nothing has changed in their opinion since January. Can the solicitation process get speed up to shorten the duration in months?

Bohonon, the apprentice process is completed when the required trips are done to gain experience. That takes longer than the initial selection process.

Pohorylo, It is CPC's job to do the best for the ports and the state, this is our job.

Richardson (Interport), if CPC/CPA can maintain an apprentice candidate list you wouldn't have to go through the process again. Interport can't write checks based on future business. There has to be certain expectations to move forward, and not create a situation where the apprentice is unemployed. It is not fair for CPC to over fill the

apprentice pilot pot. There are pilot shares and with too many pilots can a 20-year career be obtained? If there are too many pilots pilotage fees have to be increased, which reduces the competitiveness. The busiest pilot does an average 3-jobs per week, not close to max utilization.

Pohorylo, maintaining a list doesn't ensure anyone on it is still interested. Without commitment the individual may choose to move forward with something else.

Maco, why 3 and not 2?

Eisele, there was a big drop-off in qualification in the third candidate. Experience is gained through training. Do the candidates understand Interports rules? Seen as a long pipeline to train, working another job in necessary while training.

Motion: Pohorylo, to add 3-apprentice pilots to the program.

Second: Bohonon

Roll Call vote in favor, Gash, Pohorylo, Clark, Henshaw, Maco, Bohonon

Opposed: Peszke, Eisele

Motion passes

- C. Consideration of Future In-Person CPC Meetings at CPA Offices.
Next meeting will be face-to-face. There will also be provided a call-in number for those remote.

7. Adjourn

Motion: Clark

Second: Bohonon

Time: 10:28 am

Next Meeting:

9:00 AM Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Location: TBD