



NOTICE OF
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024
12:00 p.m.**

**Location: Fort Trumbull Conference Center, Classroom
90 Walbach Street, New London, CT 06320**

Zoom link was provided for those unable to attend in-person

**Please Note: In addition to the minutes below, an audio recording of this meeting can be found on the Authority's website at <https://ctportauthority.com/governance/>*

Board Attendance

Chair David Kooris; Grant Westerson; John Johnson; Paul Whitescarver; Gaffney Feskoe; Brian Thompson; Paul Hinsch; Doug Dalena; Felix Reyes; Tom Patton; Deputy Commissioner Paul O. Robertson; David Pohorylo; Mayor Michael Passero (joined at 12:44pm)

Absent: Thomas Gill; Charles Roman; John Carter; Mayor Justin Elicker

CPA Staff/Other: Ulysses Hammond; Fayola Haynes; Jill Dowling-Moreno; Marlin Peterson (AECOM); Sally Kruse (NHPA); Harry Boardsen (Bridgeport Boatworks)

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Kooris called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

2. Approval of minutes of the December 19, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion by Grant Westerson, seconded by John Johnson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

3. Public Comment

(Begins at 1:37 of the audio recording)

Public Comment made by: H. Tucker Braddock; Kevin Blacker; Mike Merna; Martha Klimas; Geoffrey Steadman; Bill Hurley

Chair Kooris noted potential items for New Business to include PIDP Grant Proposals and to engage in an initial discussion of the proposed legislation regarding the Airport Authority.

4. Finance Committee Report

(Begins at 13:50 of the audio recording)

Chair Kooris noted that since the last Board meeting, there have been two meetings of the Finance Committee. He provided a brief overview of the financial report and stated that the financial position of the Authority is strong, and commended Finance Director Fayola Haynes on the reporting.

Chair Kooris noted the two reports that came out of Committee:

(a) Q2 Office of Financial Analysis (OFA) Report

Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing submission of the Q2 quarterly financial report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes submission of the Q2 Quarterly Financial Report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, as required by Section 1-123(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as recommended by the Finance Committee at its meeting held on January 16, 2024, in the form attached as Exhibit to Agenda Item #4a.

Motion by Grant Westerson, seconded by Paul Whitescarver. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

(b) FY23 Annual Financial Report (C.G.S. § 1-123(a))

Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing the submission of the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Financial Report pursuant to C.G.S. § 1-123(a).

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed, for and on behalf of the Connecticut Port Authority, to submit the Annual Report responsive to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-123(a) to the Governor and the Auditors of Public Accounts, as recommended by the Finance Committee at its meeting held on February 20, 2024 and as further described in the Exhibit to Agenda Item #4b and to deliver any and all other reasonable and necessary documents in furtherance thereof.

Motion by John Johnson, seconded by Grant Westerson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Chair Kooris noted that both reports were unanimously approved for submission.

5. Executive Director's Report

(Begins at 17:40 of the audio recording)

Interim Executive Director, Ulysses Hammond began by thanking staff of the Parks Division of CT-DEEP for their accommodations for today's meeting, along with Board Member Brian Thompson for introductions to units and divisions within the department to strengthen coordination between the organizations. He continued with providing Administrative and Operational updates on items including staffing, meetings and recent media items; Financial Management; State Compliance Reporting; New Haven Harbor Navigation Improvement Project; Fort Trumbull Pier 7 Project; SHIPP Round 3 and request to initiate SHIPP Round 4; Statewide Dredging Study; Connecticut Pilot Commission; and a recap of recent Educational/Outreach Opportunities and Site Visits.

6. Deepwater Ports Update

(a) New London

i. State Pier

(Begins at 34:17 of the audio recording)

Chair Kooris introduced Marlin Peterson from AECOM, Construction Administrator for the project at New London State Pier.

Ulysses Hammond began the State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Projects update. He highlighted three items regarding the status of the Project: the completion of the marshalling of offshore wind turbines for South Fork Wind, with 12 turbines having been delivered to the installation site, 11 installed and 7 already generating clean wind-powered electricity to the grid in NY; construction and terminal operations are occurring simultaneously with 75% of the terminal footprint having been turned over for operations, with 100% turnover anticipated by Q2 2024; continued construction of South Wall, State Pier Heavy Lift Platform and State Pier Toe Wall, with completion of construction anticipated in Q2 2024.

Marlin Peterson provided a Construction Administrators update for the Project at the New London State Pier. He highlighted construction milestones achieved including electrical equipment with full power to the terminal expected by the end of the month; remainder of the work in process to complete Central Wharf; summary of dredging which is anticipated for completion by the end of February; update on the remaining work on the toe wall with completion of pile installation anticipated by early March. He noted that the State Pier will have two heavy lift platforms able to handle up to 5,000 psf, and that substantial completion is expected in March with the balance of turnover to terminal operations anticipated in April.

ii. Water Main Connection Agreement

(Begins at 48:53 of the audio recording)

Chair Kooris introduced the action item and noted that in working with the City of New London to bring water to the State Pier site for fire suppression, they came to the proposed solution to plug-in a water main in a second location to provide more robust service, and are proposing to contract for that work directly instead of modifying the existing contract with Kiewit in order to enable Kiewit to remain focused on completion of their contracted work. Marlin Peterson provided further details regarding the work, process, schedule and pricing for the proposed contract.

Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate, execute and deliver a construction agreement with Cisco, LLC to transition from a temporary to a permanent water main connection for the State Pier's fire protection system, for an aggregate amount not to exceed \$197,000.00.

RESOLVED: That the agreement with Cisco, LLC for construction services for a permanent water main connection for the fire protection system at the State Pier, for an aggregate amount not to exceed \$197,000.00, as further described in the Exhibit attached to Agenda Item #6(a)ii is hereby approved and the Executive Director be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed, for and on behalf of the Authority, to negotiate, execute and deliver such agreement and any and all reasonable and necessary documents in furtherance thereof.

Motion by Grant Westerson, seconded by Paul Hinsch. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Ulysses Hammond thanked the Mayor, Fire Marshall and staff of the City of New London for their assistance.

(b) Bridgeport

(Begins at 54:21 of the audio recording)

Ulysses Hammond introduced Harry Boardsen from Bridgeport Boatworks. Chair Kooris provided background information regarding the shipyard in Bridgeport. Harry Boardsen provided a summary of what Bridgeport Boatworks has done in Bridgeport at the shipyard including their lift capacity, long-term lease with Hornblower Group, re-established and diversified the yard creating jobs and participating in workforce development, and thanked Tom Gill and the City of Bridgeport for their support.

Chair Kooris noted plans for the next Board meeting in Bridgeport.

(c) New Haven

(Begins at 1:02:20 of the audio recording)

Sally Kruse, Executive Director of the New Haven Port Authority provided updates including anticipated completion of vacant property purchases from DOT; audit recommended asset capitalization policy; working on a grant to expand rail infrastructure at the Port of New Haven; dredge material management plan; thanked the City of New Haven for assistance with property clean-up; and update on RFP.

7. Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) Round 4 Initiation

(Begins at 1:06:26 of the audio recording)

(a) Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to initiate SHIPP Round 4.

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is authorized, empowered and directed, for and on behalf of the Authority to initiate Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) Round Four (4), pursuant to Public Act 15-5, Section 16, Section 13b-56(b) and take such reasonable and necessary actions as are reasonably required in furtherance thereof.

Chair Kooris and Ulysses Hammond responded to questions and feedback from the Board regarding funding, marketing and outreach for SHIPP Round 4.

Mayor Passero noted the unintended consequence that the City of New London does not qualify for this program and requested that it be addressed. Chair Kooris noted the discussion regarding this topic at Finance Committee for a potential future request to change the legislative language, and noted an alternative approach to address this issue.

Motion by Grant Westerson, seconded by Paul Hinsch. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

8. Connecticut Pilot Commission Update

(Begins at 1:13:50 of the audio recording)

(a) Electronics Use Policy

Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing adoption of Electronics Use Policy as recommended by the Connecticut Pilot Commission as a policy of the Connecticut Port Authority governing the use of mobile telephones, texting and email while engaged in piloting.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby accepts and adopts the Electronics Use Policy, as published in the Connecticut Law Journal Volume 85 No. 24

on December 12, 2023, as described in the form attached hereto as the Exhibit to Agenda Item #8a.

Motion by John Johnson, seconded by Grant Westerson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

9. Termination of Memorandum of Agreement Between DAS and CPA

(Begins at 1:14:46 of the audio recording)

Chair Kooris summarized the initiation of the MOA and the services provided by DAS related to items regarding construction procurement for the State Pier Project. Services are not currently being used and DAS has proposed termination of the MOA.

- (a) Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to terminate the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Authority and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in connection with certain technical services from DAS pertaining to the construction of the State Pier.**

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is authorized, empowered and directed, for and on behalf of the Connecticut Port Authority (the "Authority"), to terminate the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Authority and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) as updated August 2, 2022, in connection with certain technical services from DAS pertaining to the construction of the State Pier, as substantially described in the form attached hereto as the Exhibit to Agenda Item #9a and to take such reasonable and necessary actions as required in furtherance thereof.

Motion by Grant Westerson, seconded by Paul Hinsch. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

10. Committee Assignments

(Begins at 1:17:47 of the audio recording)

Chair Kooris noted modifications to the Committee Assignments, and read the Board Member names assigned to the Finance Committee, Audit, Compliance and Governance Committee and Human Resources Committee. He introduced new Designee Deputy Commissioner Paul O. Robertson of the Department of Economic and Community Development. He noted that the new Committee Assignments list will be distributed to the Board.

11. Old Business

None

12. New Business

(Begins at 1:20:42 of the audio recording)

Chair Kooris proposed an item for discussion under New Business regarding PIDP Grant Proposals.

Motion by John Johnson, seconded by Grant Westerson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Ulysses Hammond introduced the item regarding federal government grants from the Maritime Administration with the Department of Transportation. Two entities, Cashman (Ledyard site) and Gateway (New Haven site), are looking to improve the infrastructure of their shipyards and have requested that the Authority serve as non-federal sponsor to their application for PIDP Grant

funding, which is due by the end of April. Ulysses Hammond and Sally Kruse provided further details regarding the proposed infrastructure improvements. There was discussion regarding the process for handling these and future requests of this nature, and requests to make Board support conditioned on the requesting entities providing scope of work, proof of local support, and grantsmanship, and indemnification.

Motion by Chair Kooris to authorize the Executive Director submit letters to Cashman and Gateway indicating the Authority's willingness to play a role as local non-federal project sponsor, conditioned on submission of scope which will be circulated to the Board for comment, and conditioned upon submission of evidence of local support. Seconded by Grant Westerson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Chair Kooris proposed an item for discussion under New Business to discuss the proposed legislation to consolidate the CT Port Authority into the CT Airport Authority as a Maritime Authority.

Motion by John Johnson, seconded by Paul Whitescarver. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Chair Kooris summarized the legislation which would replace the CT Port Authority (CPA) with a Maritime Authority under the CT Airport Authority (CAA). If acted on by the legislature it would occur by May 8th. Doug Dalena further outlined the details of the legislation. The Board discussed potential timelines and benefits, and shared feedback and concerns.

Chair Kooris noted the Authority may hold a special meeting during this legislative session for further discussion on this topic at a time when there is additional feedback. He encouraged the Board to bring proposed solutions and alternative options to future discussions to address the concerns raised. Chair Kooris and Ulysses Hammond will be reaching out to the CAA.

13. Adjournment

(Begins at 1:58:48 of the audio recording)

Motion by Grant Westerson, seconded by John Johnson. So VOTED, with NO opposed and NO abstentions. Meeting adjourned at 2:01pm.