



CONNECTICUT
Port Authority

NOTICE OF
SPECIAL MEETING OF
CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, April 10, 2025
10:00 AM

Location: VIRTUAL

Zoom link was provided.

**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 Paul Whitescarver; Vice-Chair Grant Westerson; Gaffney Feskoe; John Johnson; David Kooris; Paul O. Robertson; Paul Hinsch; Brian Thompson; Kristin Urbach; Dave Pohorylo; Kaelie Moran; Chuck Roman; Felix Reyes; Doug Dalena; Tom Gill (joined at 10:06am)

Absent: Tom Patton

CPA Staff/Other: Michael O'Connor; Fayola Haynes; Laurie Epler; Jill Dowling-Moreno

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman of the Board Paul Whitescarver called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

2. **Public Comment**

(Begins at 1:40 of the audio recording)

Public comment made by: Kevin Blacker

3. **Request for Proposals (RFP) for Communications & Marketing Services**

(Begins at 4:20 of the audio recording)

CPA Executive Director Michael O'Connor thanked the Board for attending today's special meeting. He welcomed Kaelie Moran to the Board as the Designee for Mayor Justin Elicker from the City of New Haven.

Michael O'Connor provided a summary of the RFP for Communications and Marketing Services. He noted that a subcommittee was formed in late 2024 consisting of Paul Whitescarver, David Kooris and initially Eric Dussault with him filling that spot once on board as Executive Director. He noted that twenty-four proposals were evaluated by the subcommittee, and the top four ranking firms were interviewed by CPA staff. He noted that the firm that ranked first in the ranking of the subcommittee and by interview was Mintz + Hoke. He noted that they will be tasked with communicating the Connecticut Port Authority's mission, upgrading the website and targeted use of social media, and that he is looking forward to getting them on board. John Johnson asked about cost. Michael O'Connor noted that cost will be in accordance with the budget for the remainder of this fiscal year and that a budget amount for next fiscal year will come before the Board. Gaffney Feskoe asked for additional background information on Mintz + Hoke. Michael O'Connor, Paul O. Robertson and Doug Dalena provided additional information on the firm and their work with other State agencies.

Paul Whitescarver introduced the item for consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into an agreement for Communications and Marketing Services.

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed, for and on behalf of the Connecticut Port Authority, to negotiate, execute and deliver a contract with Mintz + Hoke for Communications and Marketing Services and all other reasonable and necessary documents in furtherance thereof.

Motion by Grant Westerson, seconded by Gaffney Feskoe. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

4. **Fencing at State Pier**

(Begins at 9:44 of the audio recording)

Michael O'Connor provided an overview of the fencing that was installed at State Pier to allow the commercial fisherman access to the CVRR pier while separating them from the transportation worker corridor. He noted that installing additional fencing at the top of the hill in that area would address security, safety and maintenance concerns, and that extending the fence line would allow for two additional commercial fishing slips for a total of four slips. He noted that the amount spent on the original fence was \$15,000 and the additional cost to install the additional fencing contains this amount and some contingency. Finance Director Fayola Haynes noted that the previous Maritime Development Manager and the Construction Administrator had requested quotations for the original fencing from various vendors and Michael O'Connor noted that the selection to remain with the same vendor for the additional fencing will help to keep costs down. Gaffney Feskoe asked if there is extra demand from commercial fisherman to use the pier. Michael O'Connor, Paul Whitescarver and Felix Reyes provided additional information regarding the extra demand with the current work being done on the elbow pier in New London.

Paul Whitescarver introduced the item for consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute and enter into that certain agreement(s) for the procurement of services for the installation of additional fencing at the New London State Pier for Connecticut Port Authority with Total Fence, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$65,456.

RESOLVED, That the agreement with Total Fence, LLC for the cost of installation of additional fencing at New London State Pier, for an amount not to exceed \$65,456, as further described in the Exhibit to Agenda Item #4, is hereby approved and the Executive Director is hereby authorized, empowered and directed, for and on behalf of the Connecticut Port Authority, to negotiate, execute and deliver such agreement and all reasonable and necessary documents in furtherance thereof.

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

5. **State Pier Update**

(Begins at 16:01 of the audio recording)

Paul Whitescarver noted that several meetings were held with Kiewit and AECOM. Michael O'Connor noted this week's meeting with Kiewit and AECOM to discuss the remaining punch list items to close out the project by June 1st. Michael O'Connor provided a summary of those discussion items including the south wall, toe wall, bumper extensions and transportation corridor. John Johnson asked about the transportation corridor and Michael O'Connor provided additional information. Gaffney Feskoe asked about the interactions between the parties and Michael O'Connor and Paul Whitescarver noted the progress made and the cooperation between the parties to continue to work collaboratively to close out the project by June 1st.

6. **Adjournment**

(Begins at 20:35 of the audio recording)

Motion to adjourn made by John Johnson, seconded by Grant Westerson. Meeting adjourned at 10:21am