



CONNECTICUT
Port Authority

NOTICE OF
REGULAR MEETING OF
CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
12:00 PM

Location: Connecticut Port Authority
455 Boston Post Rd., Suite 204
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

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; Kristin Urbach; Thomas Patton; Sally Kruse; Dave Pohorylo; Harry Rilling; Robert Mezzo; Brian Thompson; Doug Dalena; Paul O. Robertson; Kaelie Moran; Paul Hinsch; Felix Reyes; Christine Xenelis

Absent: James Donegan; David Kooris; Thomas Gill

Staff/Other: Michael O'Connor; Fayola Haynes; Jill Dowling-Moreno; Melissa Root; Anthony Afriyie

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman of the Board Paul Whitescarver called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

2. Approval of minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting on March 24, 2026 and Regular Meeting on January 27, 2026.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026 Special Meeting and the January 27, 2026 Regular Meeting of the CT Port Authority Board of Directors made by Grant Westerson, seconded by John Johnson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and an abstention by Dave Pohorylo for the March 24, 2026 meeting.

3. Public Comment

None

Paul Whitescarver welcomed new member Robert Mezzo to the Board.

4. Finance Committee Update

(Begins at 04:19 of the audio recording)

Finance Committee Chair Thomas Patton provided updates from the April 21, 2026 Finance Committee meeting including recommendation for submission of the OFA Report.

(a) FY 2026 Q3 Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) Report

Hear and act on a recommendation to authorize submission of the FY 2026 Q3 quarterly financial report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

Motion to approve the FY 2026 Q3 Office of Fiscal Analysis Report made by John Johnson, seconded by Grant Westerson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

(b) FY 2027 Plan of Operation and Proposed Budget

Hear and act on a recommendation to approve the Plan of Operation and Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

Thomas Patton provided an overview of the changes in the proposed budget for FY 2027 noting that the cash balance remains substantial. Michael O'Connor provided an overview of the proposed Plan of Operation for FY 2027 and noted the railroad lease, HDA agreement, wind lease activity, revenue and operations at State Pier. He also provided additional details regarding marketing, staffing and projects. He noted that he will make an edit to the Plan of Operation to include a description of a loan program that has been discussed to support maritime businesses with small business loans. Paul Whitescarver noted the four acres for the railroad lease at State Pier and the importance for the marketing of sub-subleases.

Motion to approve the FY 2027 Plan of Operation made by Grant Westerson, seconded by John Johnson. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Motion to approve the Proposed Budget for FY 2027 made by Grant Westerson, seconded by Gaffney Feskoe. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

5. Human Resources Committee Update

(Begins at 15:06 of the audio recording)

HR Committee Co-Chair John Johnson provided an overview of the quarterly report.

(a) Quarterly Personnel Status Report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA)

Hear and act on a recommendation to authorize submission of the quarterly Personnel Status Report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

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

(b) Staffing Update

Hear and act on a recommendation to adopt updates to the Fiscal Administrative Assistant position description.

Michael O'Connor provided an update regarding increasing the hours of the Fiscal Administrative Assistant position from 20 to 30 hours per week to provide additional support for grants, SHIPP and other projects.

Motion to adopt the updates to the Fiscal Administrative Assistant position description made by John Johnson, seconded by Gaffney Feskoe. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

6. **Audit, Compliance and Governance Committee Update**

(Begins at 20:27 of the audio recording)

(a) Operating Procedures

Consideration for approval of proposed amendments to the Operating Procedures as published in the Connecticut Law Journal Volume 85 No. 39 on March 24, 2026.

Paul Whitescarver introduced the item and noted that the Operating Procedures and a summary of proposed changes was provided to the Board.

Motion to approve the Operating Procedures made by John Johnson, seconded by Grant Westerson.

Michael O'Connor noted that the proposed amendments to the Operating Procedures were posted in the CT Law Journal for a 30-day comment period and that no comments were received.

So VOTED, with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

(b) Accounting Policy and Procedure Manual

Consideration for approval of proposed amendments to the Accounting Policy and Procedure Manual.

Motion to approve the Accounting Policy and Procedure Manual made by Grant Westerson, seconded by Doug Dalena. So VOTED, with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

(c) Employee Manual

Consideration for approval of proposed amendments to the Employee Manual.

Paul Whitescarver asked about review of the Employee Manual and Michael O'Connor noted that it was provided to Christopher Baisden, Chief Human Resources Officer at CT Innovations.

Motion to approve the Employee Manual made by John Johnson, seconded by Kristin Urbach. So VOTED, with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

7. **Grant Updates**

(Begins at 23:45 of the audio recording)

(a) Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP)

Michael O'Connor provided an overview of SHIPP Round 5 and noted that 29 applications were received and 18 were approved. He noted that most of the approved projects were for municipalities with a range of funding up to the \$400K limit. He noted that most of the projects approved for private entities were related to further analysis of dredging material and he noted subsequent discussions regarding biological testing. He also noted the funding for Guilford in accordance with the legislation. He noted that there is \$1.6M of funding available that will likely go out for another round of SHIPP in the third quarter of this calendar year. He also noted an additional \$5M in legislative funding that

does not extend past January 2027 and that he will work with the legislature to discuss SHIPP funding going forward.

(b) EPA Clean Ports Program – New London State Pier Shore Power Project

Michael O'Connor noted that the project continues to progress and that a contract was signed with Zinus. He noted that the contract amount was increased by approximately \$100K to meet requirements that the low-voltage system be mobile and that it met the Build America, Buy America (BABA) waiver requirements. He noted that the high-voltage and low-voltage systems will be fabricated over the next ten months. He noted the Request for Proposals (RFP) that is currently in process for long lead electrical equipment and noted there would be a future solicitation for the construction project. Paul Whitescarver asked about the construction timeline and Michael O'Connor noted that there is a timeline and that it will be coordinated with work at State Pier. Michael O'Connor noted that there is an upcoming project site visit scheduled with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at State Pier.

(c) PIDP Grant for Groton Marine Terminal

Michael O'Connor noted the project's importance to the region and that the Authority is awaiting notification regarding the grant application.

(d) Maritime Education Network & Training Opportunities for Residents (MENTOR)

Michael O'Connor noted that the program would allow the Authority to support a range of programs with scholarships to support residents going into the maritime industry and provided an overview of how the program would work. He noted that the initial round would provide up to \$65K. He also noted that it would support K-12 and college level.

8. Executive Director Update

(Begins at 32:04 of the audio recording)

Michael O'Connor noted that the New Haven Harbor Improvement Project operational agreement has been executed and a fund transfer for approximately \$17M is anticipated to be made in the May timeframe. He noted that the Authority has the funding from the State Bond Commission which was approved last December. He noted that the project will be out to bid in June with an anticipated start date of October 1st and will take two dredge seasons. He noted the Black Rock and Bridgeport Harbor dredging project and noted some of the feedback and concerns voiced at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) public meeting for the project that was held last week. He provided additional details regarding a Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cell and excess capacity.

Michael O'Connor continued his update, including the following topics: monthly discussions with Orsted and Enstructure regarding sub-sub lease opportunities at State Pier; review of applications for three openings for Summer Interns; SHIPP Round 5 implementation; discussions with McAllister, Enstructure and pilots regarding ship traffic in New Haven; availability of State Pier; upcoming meeting with Electric Boat; legislative request to remove the renewal pilot license fee; legislative action to create a working group to review improving freight rail and port use including timelines and funding; a briefing he provided at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SECOG) meeting regarding the New London State Pier Shore Power Project; presentation at the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers dinner meeting at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy; requests for shipyards in the state and future collaboration to evaluate underutilized properties along the rivers and coastline, as well as meetings with Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) and AdvanceCT for coordination on the state's capabilities; State Pier visit with members of the British Consulate; tour of Global Terminal in New Haven; website updates for Board member and Designee bios; exhibitor at the Hartford Boat Show in late January; Suddenly in Command course with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary hosted at the Authority's office; hosting of the North Atlantic Ports Association meeting in New London in

June which will include a Cross Sound Ferry tour of New London harbor and speakers will include Stephen Carmel, administrator of the Maritime Administration (MARAD). Michael O'Connor noted that if Board members are interested in attending, to reach out to him.

Michael O'Connor noted that this is Brian Thompson's last Board meeting as he is retiring from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and has been serving as the DEEP Commissioner's designee on the Board. He and other members offered their congratulations and thanked Brian Thompson for his support and years of service on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Port Authority.

9. **Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-210(b)(4) of the General Statutes of Connecticut for the purpose of discussing active or pending claims.**

(Begins at 49:37 of the audio recording)

Paul Whitescarver read the above. Motion to enter executive session made by John Johnson, seconded by Sally Kruse. Paul Whitescarver invited Michael O'Connor, Fayola Haynes and Jill Dowling-Moreno into the executive session.

Paul Whitescarver noted that the Board came out of executive session at 1:17pm.

10. **Adjournment**

(Begins at 51:28 of the audio recording)

Motion to adjourn made by Kristin Urbach, seconded by Gaffney Feskoe. Meeting adjourned at 1:17pm.