



CONNECTICUT
Port Authority

NOTICE OF
SPECIAL MEETING OF
CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, May 28, 2026
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; Gaffney Feskoe; John Johnson; David Kooris; Dave Pohorylo; Robert Mezzo; Paul Hinsch; Doug Dalena; James Donegan; Kirti Patel; Brian Thompson; Mayor Passero

Absent: Thomas Gill; Sally Kruse; Kaelie Moran; Thomas Patton; Harry Rilling; Kristin Urbach; Vice-Chair Grant Westerson; Christine Xenelis

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

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Public Comment**

None

3. **MOU for PIDP Grant Application**

(Begins at 2:20 of the audio recording)

Paul Whitescarver noted this item as the primary reason for the special meeting due to the upcoming deadline for the Port Infrastructure Development Program. He introduced the item.

Hear and act on a request to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Buckeye Terminals, LLC to submit a Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant application for a project titled "Groton Marine Infrastructure Improvement Project".

Paul Whitescarver noted that this is similar to the MOU from last year with a few redlined changes. Motion to approve the MOU made by David Kooris, seconded by John Johnson.

Michael O'Connor provided further details and noted that the changes included are reflective of a new grant application cycle with adjustment of timelines. He thanked the Board for their support last September for the MOU with Buckeye Terminals for a PIDP grant application. He noted that the MOU terminated when the application was not selected for the grant. He noted that notification was received in April and the subsequent discussion with the Maritime Administration (MARAD) for feedback on the grant application. He noted the improvements that are being made to the grant application to highlight efficiency gains, improvements to security and fire protection, and the regional need. He noted that the amount being requested will remain at \$11.2M with Buckeye supporting 25% instead of 20%. John Johnson asked about the funding and Michael O'Connor noted that \$50K of the funds have been budgeted to cover the CT Port Authority's (Authority) overhead for providing financial oversight of the project. He noted there is not a need for additional staffing but that the Board had previously approved additional hours for the Fiscal Administrative Assistant for finance support for the project. Paul Whitescarver noted that this project was brought to the Council of Governments last year and was then brought to the Authority's attention to be the fiduciary for the project. Paul Whitescarver and Michael O'Connor provided additional details regarding the PIDP grant process. John Johnson asked about public relations regarding the project and there was additional discussion regarding the benefits of the project.

So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

4. 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 10:12 of the audio recording)

Paul Whitescarver read the above and noted it is for discussion of pending claims. Motion to enter executive session made by John Johnson, seconded by Doug Dalena. So, VOTED. Paul Whitescarver invited Michael O'Connor, Fayola Haynes and Jill Dowling-Moreno into the executive session.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:48am.

5. Hear and act on a request to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a settlement agreement.

(Begins at 12:30 of the audio recording)

Paul Whitescarver noted that there was discussion in Executive Session to table Item #5. Motion to table Item #5 made by David Kooris, seconded by Doug Dalena. So, VOTED with NO opposed and NO abstentions.

Motion to adjourn made by John Johnson, seconded by Gaffney Feskoe. Paul Whitescarver thanked the Board for attending the Special Meeting to discuss Item #3 before the June 1st PIDP grant application deadline.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am.