

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS
Telephone Conference Call
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Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 10:00 a.m. EDT
UNAPPROVED**

GENERAL BOARD BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kurtz at 10:00 am EST

Members Present:

Commissioner Kurtz, Chair
Commissioner Jaccoma, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Benson
Commissioner Cumings
Commissioner Phipps
Commissioner Russo
Commissioner Seuter

Others Present

Amanda Ackermann, Executive Director
Marlene Stern, Board of Pilot Commissioner's Attorney
Crystal Stevens, Prosecuting Attorney
Anne Ahrendt, Government Analyst
Captain Thomas Bushy, Consultant to the Board
Warren Husband, Florida Harbor Pilots Association
Laura Di Bella, Florida Harbor Pilots Association
Gretchen Winters, Florida Harbor Pilots Association
Ben Borgie, Florida Harbor Pilots Association
Jay Winegeart, St. Johns Bar Pilots Association
Terry Flume, Tampa Bay Pilots Association

REQUEST FOR STATE PILOT EXAMINATIONS

Captain Dane Britt- Palm Beach Pilots Association - A motion was made by Commissioner Phipps and seconded by Commissioner Russo to approve Captain Dane Britt to sit for the State Pilot Examination for the Port of Palm Beach. Motion carried.

Captain Travis Diemert- Port Everglades Pilots Association - A motion was made by Commissioner Benson and seconded by Commissioner Cumings to approve Captain Travis Diemert to sit for the State Pilot Examination for Port Everglades. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO DEPUTY PILOT TRAINING PROGRAMS
FOR PORT OF PALM BEACH – PALM BEACH PILOTS ASSOCIATION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cumings to approve the changes to the Deputy Pilot Training Program for the Palm Beach Pilots Association and seconded by Commissioner Phipps. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ABOUT ALLOWING OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSEL (OSV) OF OVER 1,600 GROSS TONNAGE SEA TIME AND ARTICULATED TUG BARGES (ATBs) SERVICE FOR DEPUTY PILOT EXAMINATION QUALIFYING SEA TIME.

Captain Bushy gave a presentation presenting why he felt that OSV Sea Time should qualify given that most OSVs exceed 3,000 GT and are thus considered to be unlimited tonnage by the Coast Guard and the OS Company operated have made a decision for their mates and masters to possess unlimited tonnage licenses. He feels the individuals should be able to sit for the exam given the tonnage of the vessels they are working. Chair Kurtz asked Board Counsel Stern if there was any language in the Statutes or Rules that would prevent the sea time from qualifying. Per Counsel, no.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kurtz to allow OSV seetime to qualify as long as the underlying license is an unlimited license and the OSV sea time is over the 1,600 GT/over 3,000 ITC level and the STCW (IMO Standards of Training Certificate and Watchkeeping) requirements are met. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phipps and the motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICANTS FOR DEPUTY PILOT OPENINGS FOR PORT OF PALM BEACH.

Captain Bushy that the following applicants met the requirements to take the Deputy Pilot examination for Port of Palm Beach: George Frederick Alger, Michael C. Berry Jr., Benjamin E. Fallon, Daniel G. Hanson, Jeff R. Harris, Michelle M. Jimenez, Kai Morgan Jure, Joshua D. Kornblum, Robert Krug, Jeremy P. Lowe, Joseph T. Martinet, Christopher David Megregian, Matthew Meilstrup, Daniel Pessa, Joseph F. Purcell, Matthew J. Salas, Adel H. Sotolongo, Chase Russell Westerdorf and Taylor Craig Wyman.

Commissioner Jaccoma made a motion to approve the candidates as presented by Captain Bushy to sit for the March 2021 Port of Palm Beach Deputy Pilot Examination. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benson. Motion carried.

MOTION TO DENY

Captain Bushy stated that the application file for Patricia A. Malagrino demonstrated that the applicant had insufficient sea time; therefore, the applicant failed to meet the requirements for maritime experience as set forth in section 310.071, F.S., & rule 61G14-11.002 F.A.C.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cumings to deny the application for Patricia A. Malagrino as she did not meet the sea time requirements to sit for the March 2021 Port of Palm Beach Deputy Pilot Examination. Motion seconded by Commissioner Phipps. Motion carried.

Captain Bushy stated that the application file for Michael O'Connell demonstrated that the candidate had insufficient sea time with the qualifying license; therefore, the applicant failed to meet the requirements for maritime experience as set forth in section 310.071, F.S., & rule 61G14-11.002 F.A.C.

A motion was made by Commissioner Russo to deny the application for Michael O'Connell as he did not meet the requirements to sit for the March 2021 Port of Palm Beach Deputy Pilot Examination. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cumings. Motion carried.

Captain Bushy stated that the application file for Nicholas Watson demonstrated that the applicant had insufficient sea time; therefore, the applicant failed to meet the requirements for maritime experience as set forth in section 310.071, F.S., & rule 61G14-11.002 F.A.C.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cumings to deny the application for Nicholas Watson as he did not meet the requirements to sit for the March 2021 Port of Palm Beach Deputy Pilot Examination. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jaccoma. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR CROSS LICENSED DEPUTY PILOT FOR THE PORT OF ST. JOE, FLORIDA- ST. ANDREW BAY PILOTS ASSOCIATION.

A motion was made by Commissioner Phipps to accept the request from Captain Frudaker of the St. Andrew Bay Pilots to cross license Captain Zach Condon of the St. Andrew Bay Pilots to become cross-licensed to pilot vessels into the port of Port St. Joe. Motion was seconded by Captain Cumings. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT DUE TO COVID CONCERNS.

Board counsel Stern stated that items that needed to be waived were Rule 61G144-20.001 (2) F. A. C. and Chapter 310.081(3)(b), F. S. and the criteria being used for the waiver was that it would be a substantial hardship for the pilot to get his physical examination within the current time constraints due to comorbidities associated with Covid 19.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cuming and seconded by Commissioner Phipps to grant the waiver for the time requirement for the annual physical with the stipulation that the annual examination must be conducted by March 31, 2021. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Chair Report – Commissioner Kurtz

No report.

Deputy Pilot Advancement Committee Report-Commissioner Phipps.

Commissioner Phipps approved the September 24, 2020 minutes, the October 29, 2020 minutes, the November 13, 2020 minutes, the November 30, 2020 minutes, and the December 21, 2020 minutes with the correction that on the November 13, 2020 minutes, Captain Eric Baker was from the Port of Palm Beach, not from Port Everglades.

Deputy Pilot Advancement Ratifications

A motion was made by Commissioner Kurtz and seconded by Commissioner Russo to approve the Deputy Pilot Advancements from September 24, 2020 through December 21, 2020 with the correction of Captain Eric Baker's port from Port Everglades to Port of Palm Beach. Motion carried.

Board Attorney Report – Marlene Stern

No additional rules have been added to the Rules Report since the last meeting. Chair Kurtz asked for clarification as to would a rule be drafted regarding the Offshore Vessel discussion held earlier in the meeting. Ms. Stern indicated that the change would be needed be drafted into a rule so that the qualifications for sea time with OSVs would be clear to everyone. Ms. Stern would draft language for a potential rule and have it available for review at the next Board meeting.

Prosecuting Attorney's Report – Crystal Stephens

Ms. Stephens reported that there were five (5) private disciplinary cases and one public disciplinary (1) case.

Executive Director Report-Amanda Ackermann

Ms. Ackermann presented the financials as of September 30, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS**OLD BUSINESS-****PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Jaccoma. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m. EST.