

**BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
The Florida Hotel and Conference Center at the Florida Mall
1500 Sand Lake Road
Orlando, FL
February 11, 2014**

Approved July 14, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Swindell, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Members Present

Commissioner Swindell, Chair
Commissioner Fernandez
Commissioner Fox
Commissioner Kurtz
Commissioner Nielsen
Commissioner Trueba
Commissioner Ulrich
Commissioner Walters
Commissioner Winegeart

Others Present

Robyn Barineau, Executive Director
Elise Rice, Government Analyst
Michael Flury, Board Counsel
Clark Jennings, Board Counsel
Galen Dunton, Board Consultant
Warren Husband, Florida Harbor Pilots Association (FHPA)
Ben Borgie, FHPA
Doug Mutter, Canaveral Pilots Association
Allen Thompson, Tampa Bay Pilots Association
Sam Stephenson, FHPA
Stuart Lilly, FHPA
Michele Paige, Florida Caribbean Cruise Association
Matt Sams, Carnival Corporation
Captain Salvatore Rassello, Carnival Cruise Lines
Bob Callahan, Port Tampa Bay
Cheryl Phipps, Port Everglades Pilots Association
Michael Meekins, Canaveral Port Authority
Robert Jackson, Retired Pilot
Bjorn Ove Hanson, Norwegian Cruise Line
Diana Garcia, Court Reporter

Commissioner Swindell thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He asked that comments from the public be limited to three to five minutes. He stated that the members had been provided with a copy of the rules and statutes. He indicated that he was certain that there would be research if they propose any changes. The research burden will not all fall on the staff.

After discussion, Commissioner Swindell suggested that they prioritize legislative changes.

Commissioner Fernandez commented that the qualifications for deputy pilots was a good place to start. Commissioner Fox agreed and commented that he has been impressed with the training. He stated that another issue was the minority pilot situation.

There was discussion regarding the educational requirements.

Following discussion, Commissioner Swindell asked if the members wanted to propose changing the minimum requirements to a four-year college degree. Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Ulrich, Commissioner Nielsen, Commissioner Trueba and Commissioner Walters were in favor of the change. Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner Kurtz, Commissioner Winegeart and Commissioner Swindell were opposed to the change.

Commissioner Swindell asked if the members wanted to propose changing the requirements to a four-year college degree, and add a level of experience at the con. Commissioner Kurtz, Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner Nielsen, Commissioner Winegeart, Commissioner Ulrich and Commissioner Swindell were in favor of the change. Commissioner Walters and Commissioner Fox were opposed to the change.

The Committee discussed minority training. Commander Dunton explained the experience requirements and the examination.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONS AND RESPONSE

Commissioner Fox expressed concerns with the ship ladders that the pilots have to climb and the fact that there has been a related death recently. He stated that he was concerned with the physical exam they have to pass and questioned if the job was such that the requirements should be more rigorous.

Commissioner Kurtz responded that there is a medical list contained in the physical form that covers your physical condition, and the physician must attest to the pilot completing the exam. She stated that a pilot is constantly monitoring their physical well-being. Commissioner Walters commented that he was leery of the honor system. Commissioner Kurtz responded that they self-monitor in order to keep their job.

The Committee discussed the physicals and the wearing of life jackets. There was also discussion regarding retirement. Captain Thompson reminded everyone that Florida was a right to work state and there was no mandatory retirement age.

MENTORING REPORTS

Following discussion regarding the mentoring of potential pilots, it was decided that this would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

At this time, the Committee reviewed the matrix and responses. Commissioner Fox stated that the question regarding being a resident in Florida and the physicals have been handled.

Question #3 is determined by the Board and the Department.

#4, #5, #6, #7 have been addressed.

#8 Commissioner Swindell stated that this was in regard to the one pilot in Pensacola, which there is a cross-licensed deputy pilot now for this port.

#9, #10, #11, #12 have been addressed.

#13 Commissioner Swindell stated that this was an issue that they could discuss at the next meeting

#14, #15, #16 have been handled.

#17 pilot board standards will be discussed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Swindell recommended that this Committee ask the Rules Committee to review the rules regarding flotation devices.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held April 22, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. Staff will secure a location in Tampa or Orlando and notify the members.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.