

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pilot Commissioners Board

General Information

Meeting Type: General Board Meeting

Meeting Date: April 15-16, 2004, Radisson Resort at the Port, Cape Canaveral, Florida

Board Members:

Pilot Commissioners

Victoria Robas, Chair
Cheryl Phipps, Vice Chair
Eugene Sweeney
Michael Buffington
Earl McMillin
David Leech
Richard Frudaker
Donald Molitor
John Hiers
Rivers Buford

Rate Review Board

Robert Swindell, Chair
Michael Hugins
Judge Clarence Johnson
Stephen Reynolds
Tanya Robinson
Captain Weston Stow

Other Attendees:

Anthony Spivey, Executive Director
Elise Rice, Government Analyst I
Charles Tunnicliff, Prosecuting Attorney
Drew Winters, Prosecuting Attorney
Ed Tellechea, Assistant Attorney General
Galen Dunton, Board Consultant
Richard Law, Financial Investigator

Major Issues/Actions

- For the first time in the histories of the boards, both the Pilot Commissioners and the Pilotage Rate Review Boards held a joint meeting. The Pilot Commissioners requested a joint meeting because the Pilotage Rate Review Board was composed of all new members save for the current board chair, Robert Swindell. The meeting consisted of the Pilot Board describing its overall function in ensuring adequate pilots are at the ports, and the regulation of the assigned pilots. The Rate Review Board was briefed on its responsibilities as members of the board and the Sunshine Law, and also received a briefing on the financial aspects of doing a rate review. Captain George Viso, President of the Florida State Pilots Association gave a brief overview of the typical candidate that applies for a piloting position at the ports. Both boards were appreciative of the joint meeting that allowed for such interchange of general information.
- The Pilot Commissioners' Board discussed the assessment rate and approved a rate increase to 0.9% effective July 1, 2004 to offset any negative balances that may occur as a result of the recent cash sweep. The board had \$317,475 deducted from its operating and unlicensed activity accounts when the cash sweep was authorized.

- The Pilot Commissioners Board declared a vacancy at the Port of Ft. Pierce to relieve the Pilots at the port of Port Canaveral who have been assisting the pilot at Ft. Pierce. A deputy pilot examination will be given in September 2004, to permanently assign another deputy to the port. If no candidates appear for the September examination, another examination will be provided for in January 2005.
- Board Counsel informed the Commissioners Board that he has requested that the case on Captain Efthimiadis, a deputy pilot at the port of Port Everglades, be remanded back to the board. This is being requested so the board may have an opportunity to perform an evaluation on the performance of Captain Efthimiadis.
- Annual elections were held during the meetings of each board. Victoria Robas and Cheryl Phipps were elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the Pilot Commissioners Board. Robert Swindell, and Captain Weston Stowe were elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the Pilotage Rate Review Board.
- The board requested that the Prosecuting Attorney's report be moved to an earlier place on the agenda so that more discussion will be given to the cases. The board did express concern over the dates on some of the cases. Prosecuting Attorney Drew Winters will provide more information pertaining to the cases and give as much information as possible without jeopardizing the cases for members that may eventually hear a case during probable cause.
- Dr. Pomm from the Professionals Resource Network (PRN) made a presentation to the board regarding its role in treating impaired pilots who may have a mental or physical disability preventing them from performing piloting duties. The board had requested Dr. Pomm do the presentation, as there was recently a pilot referred to the PRN for evaluation.
- Commissioner Robas thanked the Executive Director and staff for all the work done to put on the joint meeting between the boards.

Legislation/Rule Promulgation

- The rules committee tabled the discussion for implementation of the rule allowing licensees whom are spouses of military members to be exempt from the renewal process when accompanying the military member outside of the State of Florida because of deployment orders.

Action Required

- For the next Pilot Commissioners meeting, provide a copy of the results of the department verifying all pilots have had an annual physical. Each year, pilots are required to take an annual physical and provide the results to the department.

Anthony B. Spivey
Executive Director
April 19, 2004