

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pilot Commissioners Board

General Information

Meeting Type: General Board Meeting

Meeting Date: July 8-9, 2004, Marriott Bay Point Resort Village, Panama City Beach, Florida

Board Members: **Pilot Commissioners**
Victoria Robas, Chair
Cheryl Phipps, Vice Chair
Michael Buffington
Earl McMillin
David Leech
Richard Frudaker
Donald Molitor
John Hiers
Rivers Buford

Other Attendees: Jerry Wilson, Deputy Director
Anthony Spivey, Executive Director
Elise Rice, Government Analyst I
Ed Tellechea, Assistant Attorney General
Drew Winters, Prosecuting Attorney
Galen Dunton, Board Consultant

Major Issues/Actions

- The Pilot Commissioners Board discussed a number of issues during the two-day meeting resulting in a very positive meeting for the group and attendees. As expressed by the board chair, the Pilot Commissioners are very pleased with the performance of the department in presenting information to the board. The following information is presented for review.

- The Finance Committee met and discussed the third quarter financial results. Commissioner Buffington, Chair of the committee, expressed favorable comments regarding the figures and the format of presentation submitted by the department. After review of the information, the board had no major adjustments to the third quarter results presented by the department and expressed gratitude for the effort taken by the department.

- The board discussed again the item brought up during the April 15-16, 2004 meeting by Commissioner Sweeney regarding the number of board meetings per year. Currently the board holds four meetings per year and it was suggested that perhaps three would meet the needs of the board.

After discussion of this, the board decided that four meetings are required based on the issues that do come up regarding the ports and the Pilots within each port. The board believes that maintaining the four meetings allows the group to stay ahead of the information and respond to it in a timely manner.

- The Probable Cause Committee met and heard nine cases. Eight of the nine cases were closing orders in which the board accepted the recommendation of the department to close. The board found probable cause in the remaining case.
- The board reviewed the performance of Deputy Pilot candidate Andrew Efthimiadis whom had not been recommended for continuance of deputy pilot training by the pilot association. Upon review of the information presented by the pilot association, the board agreed to stay the decision and not recommend Captain Efthimiadis for continued deputy training. Captain Efthimiadis or a representative was not present during the meeting.
- The board reviewed the list of Pilots/Deputy pilots listing the dates of their last physical and radar certificates. It was noted that four of the pilots required updated information regarding their physicals or radar certification. Staff was instructed to contact the pilots to update the information.
- The board reviewed a letter from the department regarding the timetable for the fiscal year 2004-2005 budget. The timetable calls for comments from the board on the direction the department is taking with regards to certain financial information. Based on the comments from the board, suggestions were made to allow provisions for additional costs when the test questions have to be reviewed to ensure they are current. However, based on the last review of the test questions, the board stated this would not be an issue for the current fiscal year. The board raised questions regarding the amount for service fees for the use of credit cards. Based on comments from Jerry Wilson, Deputy Director, the board was informed that the fees are to cover all the businesses and professions that the department regulates. Upon final review, the board indicated that it was satisfied with the overall budget for fiscal year 2004-2005.

Legislation/Rule Promulgation

- The board approved language for adopting a rule that provides for the absence of Pilots/Deputy Pilots to accompany their Military spouse who has been assigned outside the State of Florida. The rule will have guidelines for updating any licensing requirements upon return of the Pilot/Deputy pilot to the State of Florida.
- Rule 61G14-21.001, Florida Administrative Code, (F.A.C.) names the designated Ports in the State of Florida that are required to have licensed pilots or certificated deputy pilots. The board suggested amending the rule to include language on port security because of the current world situation. Board counsel will draft language on this item.

- Pilotage assessment fees are addressed in Rule 61G14-19.001, F.A.C., and list the prevailing rate that will be charged to each port. As a standing item on the agenda, the board adjusts rates accordingly. During the current meeting of the board, no adjustment to the rate was announced.

Action Required

- Contact the pilots identified during the meeting requiring updated information on their physicals and radar certificates and have the information submitted to the department.

Anthony B. Spivey
Executive Director
July 14, 2004