

Minutes of Pilot Commission Port Freeport April 12, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Pilot Commission of Port Freeport was held April 12, 2018, beginning at 2:47 PM at the Port Freeport Administration Building, 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas.

Commissioners present:

Mr. Paul Kresta, Chairman
Mr. John Hoss, Vice Chairman
Mr. Shane Pirtle, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Bill Terry, Commissioner
Mr. Ravi Singhania, Commissioner

Staff Members present:

Mr. Jason Cordoba, Legal Counsel
Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director/CEO
Mr. Al Durel, Director of Operations
Mr. Jason Hull, Director of Engineering
Ms. Missy Bevers, Executive Assistant
Mr. Brandon Robertson, Network Systems Manager

Absent:

Mr. Rudy Santos, Commissioner

Also, present:

Captain Jim Teeter, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Billy J. Burns, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Daniel Blanton, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Matthew Krohn, Brazos Pilots Association
Mr. Bobby Fuller, Texas Port Ministry
Mr. Chris Noble, Dole Fresh Fruit
Mr. Steve Huttman, G&H Towing
Mr. Robert Hawn, WGMA
Mr. Gene Theriot, Dow Chemical Company
Mr. Bob Arroyave, Brown & Gay Engineers

1. CONVENE OPEN SESSION in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.001, et. seq., to review and consider the following:
2. Approval of minutes from the Special Meetings held February 8, 2018 and February 27, 2018.

A motion was made by Commissioner Singhania to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pirtle with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

3. Receive report from Executive Director/CEO and/or Port staff on activities and matters related to the Freeport Harbor Channel.

Ms. Saathoff reported on the lighting improvements made and noted the remaining improvements to be made are along the shoreline of the Dow Thumb and will be included with the stability feature project when it moves forward. Captain Blanton stated the solar powered light installed is in a great location and working well for the Pilots. He also noted he spoke with Mr. Durel about replacing the red flashing lights on the barges at Brazos Harbor 6 with a different color. Ms. Saathoff noted the GRR package is at Headquarters in Washington, DC undergoing the final step. Signature approval should be received in 45 days or less. Ms. Saathoff also thanked Captain Blanton for attending recent speaking events and offering a different perspective on why it's important to have the additional depth/width in the channel.

4. Receive update from the Freeport Harbor Working Group.

Mr. Gene Theriot, Dow Chemical Company, reported the Freeport Harbor Working Group is in the process of collecting data to build a business case for a dispatch service for the Port which will be presented to the Pilot Commission at a future meeting. Ms. Saathoff noted the group has reached out to various working group members to determine what functionality everyone would like to have in the program to get the most benefit from it.

5. Receive update from the Brazos Pilots Association regarding pilot boat construction, year-to-date vessel traffic, pilot boat fee collection and expenditures and other pilot matters.

Captain Burns stated that numbers are down approximately 13% compared to first quarter last year with the pilots working 243 ships. Since its inception, the total amount of boat fees collected is \$166,000 with \$79,997 collected in the first quarter of this year. Captain Blanton stated the engineering phase for the new pilot boat will be complete within the next 14 days and will then go into production. The Pilots should have the boat in the first quarter of next year. Captain Blanton thanked the Commission for working with the Pilots to purchase the new boat, as it will have a positive on effect on operations. Captain Burns stated the review process for the deputy pilot applications is going well with approximately 20-30 applications submitted. Pilots have been interviewing applicants and should be presenting new candidates to the Commission within the next 30 days.

6. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.