

NEW HAVEN PORT AUTHORITY

MINUTES

#173

REGULAR MEETING – April 7, 2022

This was an entirely remote meeting.

Chairman Abbagnaro called the Regular Meeting of the New Haven Port Authority to order at 5:39 PM.

Commissioners Present: John Abbagnaro, Chair; Patricia Drax, Treasurer*; Giovanni Zinn; Chuck Mascola; Jody Ortiz**

Staff Present: Sally Kruse; Judi Sheiffele

Counsel: Carolyn Kone and Holly Winger - Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman

Public: Mark Augur – Gateway Terminal

AGENDA

MINUTES

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 3, 2022. No comments on the draft minutes were provided. Upon a motion by Commissioner Abbagnaro, seconded by Commissioner Drax, the minutes of the March 3, 2022, Regular Meeting were unanimously approved by all Commissioners present at the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2. Review of Bank Statements and Reconciliations for February 28, 2022 (STIF Account) and March 31, 2022 (Citizen's Bank Accounts). 3. Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for period ending February 28, 2022. Treasurer Drax reported on interest activity for the STIF account in February 2022, and the Citizen's Bank Money Market account for March 2022. She reported on the reconciliations of the STIF account (February 2022) and both Citizen's Bank accounts (March 2022) as well as the Profit and Loss for March 2022 and the Fiscal YTD Balance Sheet through March 2022. Upon a motion by Commissioner Abbagnaro, seconded by Commissioner Mascola, the Financial Report was accepted by unanimous vote of all Commissioners present at the meeting.

4. Expenditures requiring Board approval. There were no expenditures requiring Board approval during March 2022.

UPDATES

Connecticut Maritime Coalition – no CMC meeting had been held since prior Board meeting.

Connecticut Port Authority – Ms. Sheiffele reported that the current Executive Director of the Connecticut Port Authority would be resigning. A prospective interim ED has been identified and the full Board of Directors of the CPA would meet to approve the selection.

**Commissioner Ortiz joined the meeting at 5:50 pm.

ACOE – Channel Deepening Project – Ms. Sheiffele reported that the Congressionally appropriated funds have not yet been released to the Army Corps, and that planning/scheduling for the construction phase of the project have not begun. The Army Corps has not yet closed out the Feasibility Study.

New Haven Marine Group and New Haven Harbor Coop meetings – Ms. Kruse reported that on two occasions, vehicles had been observed driving around the port area filming. The USCG stated that there had been several security incidents in New Haven during the previous months.

OLD BUSINESS

5. New Board member selection and approval – Ms. Kruse reported that the Mayor’s office had stated that one applicant’s information would be forwarded to the Board of Alders, that a second applicant had completed the application process, and that two other persons had agreed to serve on the Board. In addition, one person is in the process of applying to be on the Advisory Board. Staff to follow up with those persons.

6. Port Signage – The earlier concept of creating port signage to advertise the city and the port by placing an illuminated sign on the Tomlinson Bridge was discussed. CDOT has been described as not in favor of putting signs on the bridge, but the potential for projecting a sign onto the bridge was introduced. In addition, improvements in street signage for the port district were discussed.

7. Greenway – Commissioner Zinn outlined the desire to put a greenway (pedestrian/bike path) through the port district on CDOT Rights-of-Way and stated that the city is planning to implement this greenway using grant money from the infrastructure bill. It is the city’s intention to construct the greenway, but not to repair Connecticut Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

8. FY 22-23 Budget – Commissioner Drax requested that an additional line item be added to the budget for strategic planning. After discussion, a sum of \$10,000.00 was settled on. There were no other comments or suggested changes to the draft budget. Commissioner Abbagnaro motioned to approve the budget as presented with an additional \$10,000.00 for strategic planning. Commissioner Ortiz seconded the motion, which was passed by all Commissioners present at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- The letter approving discussions construction of a warehouse on Parcel C was completed although discussions have not yet begun.
- Work is continuing on a terms sheet for development of 135 Fulton Terrace-54 Edgemere Street. NHPA is waiting for comments from the prospective developer.

- ED held a meeting with port operators to discuss their interests and concerns. They all expressed concern over traffic and the condition of Connecticut Avenue, including a request by some port terminals for the NHPA to fence off the port district south of I-95 with only one point of entrance and one point of egress. That would include managing security concerns and would make the NHPA responsible for road maintenance, repair, and snow clearing. Port operators very strongly wish to have CDOT parcels 2 and 3 returned to them.
- Phase 1 ESAs received for Parcels 1, 4, 5, and 6. Attorney Winger reviewed the purpose and limitations of Phase 1 ESAs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Abbagnaro, seconded by Commissioner Ortiz, the Board went into Executive Session at 6:55 pm to discuss strategy and negotiations regarding pending litigation to which the NHPA is a party. Staff and attorneys also joined the executive session.

*Commissioner Drax left the meeting at 7:37 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

After exiting the executive session, Commissioner Zinn moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ortiz and all Commissioners present voted in favor. Chair Abbagnaro adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.