**NEW HAVEN PORT AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING #198**

**OCTOBER 12, 2023**

This was an entirely remote meeting.

Chairman Fabiani called Regular Meeting #198 of the New Haven Port Authority (NHPA) to order at 5:03 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Nick Fabiani, Chair; Sal Punzo, Vice-Chair; Tom Cavaliere, Treasurer; Eugene Harris, Secretary; Katharine Goodbody\*: Giovanni Zinn\*\*

Staff Present: Sally Kruse

Counsel: Carolyn Kone - Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman, LLP; Danielle Bercury - Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman, LLP\*\*\*

AGENDA

**MINUTES**

**1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 14, 2023**. No comments were provided. Upon a motion by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Goodbody, the minutes of the September 14, 2023, Regular Meeting were unanimously approved by all Commissioners present at the meeting.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**2. Review of Bank Statements and Reconciliations for September 29, 2023 (New Haven Bank) and September 30, (STIF). 3. Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for period ending September 30, 2023**. Commissioner Cavaliere reviewed the relevant financial reports, once again noting the robust STIF interest income. Upon a motion by Commissioner Punzo, seconded by Commissioner Goodbody, the financial report was unanimously approved by all Commissioners present at the meeting.

**4. Expenditures requiring Board approval.** – There was only one expenditure above $1,500.00 during September 2023, which was exempt under Article X of the Procurement Policy. The ED asked for approval of costs associated with attendance at the NAPA annual meeting, which individually are below the threshold for which ED can commit funds but sum to a greater value. Upon a motion by Commissioner Goodbody, seconded by Commissioner Punzo, the costs were unanimously approved by all Commissioners present at the meeting. In addition, the ED was tasked with developing a cost proposal for an NHPA cellphone.

\*\*\* Attorney Bercury joined the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

\*\*Commissioner Zinn joined the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**135 Fulton Terrace-54 Edgemere Road Development Agreement Revision** – Attorney Bercury discussed the reason for the proposed revision and the changed text. Upon a motion by Commissioner Goodbody, seconded by Commissioner Harris, the change was unanimously approved by all Commissioners present at the meeting.

\*\*Attorney Bercury left the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

**Strategic Port Master Plan RFP Update –** ED reported that the RFP had been issued on September 22nd, with copies sent to 8 port planning firms directly, copies posted on AAPA and CPA websites and LinkedIn, and notices published in the New Haven Register and the Hartford Courant. Two of the original 8 firms opted not to respond, but 2 additional firms have expressed interest in responding. The Board requested that the ED further tell the bidders that travel expenses would not be covered. Responses are due 11/1/23.

**Update on Perimeter Fence Agreement with DOT** – Attorney Kone updated the Board on the status of the negotiations for a License Agreement allowing NHPA to install fence on DOT property. In addition, the ED will approach a local private security company for a proposal to do rounds at the properties.

**Update on the purchase of DOT parcels** – ED reported that DOT prepared draft deeds which were reviewed by NHPA attorneys and will be finalized for signature review. ED further reported that the CPA will vote on a resolution to transfer money for the purchases to NHPA at its next meeting scheduled for October 17th. The Board expressed interest in doing something to thank all the people who have been instrumental in achieving the transfer, such as a signing ceremony.

\*\*Commissioner Zinn left the meeting at 5:34 p.m. Commissioner Zinn reconnected several times during the rest of the evening without being able to stay connected.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT -** None

**UPDATES**

Connecticut Maritime Coalition (CMC) – No meeting held – nothing to report.

Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) – Per above the CPA will vote on a resolution to transfer bonded money to the NHPA for the purchase of the DOT properties.

Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) – Channel Deepening Project – Project manager expects contract award for geotechnical work to be awarded around mid-November and is still expecting dredging to begin in October 2025. Because the project is currently fully funded it will proceed even in the event of a government shutdown. ACOE received the Cross Sound Cable owner’s plan for relocation of the cable in sections 6/7 of the entrance channel in the area of the breakwater. They are currently evaluating the alternatives for upcoming discussions with the Cross Sound Cable owners.

New Haven Marine Group/New Haven Harbor Co-Op – The Co-Op held its annual spill response in September and will hold the annual tabletop security and spill response drill on October 18th.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S (ED’s) REPORT –** The ED reported that the deed for 135 Fulton Terrace and 54 Edgemere Road had been signed by the Treasurer’s Office and that the attorneys were offering to hold the sale money in escrow and send to DOT in the place of NHPA. The ED further reported that 815 East Shore Parkway transfer to NHPA had been approved by the City Plan Commission.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Fabiani moved to go into Executive Session with all commissioners, Carolyn Kone, and Sally Kruse to discuss the items below on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Goodbody and upon a unanimous vote by all commissioners present at the meeting, the Board moved into executive session at 5:42 p.m.

**To discuss acquisition of properties under CGS 1-200(B)(6)(D) (Selection of site or purchase of property when publicity would adversely impact purchase price) with respect to 821 East Shore Parkway and 50 Fulton Terrace.**

The ED left the Executive Session and returned after the Board discussion of the following item.

**To discuss the continued employment, performance, and evaluation of the Executive Director**

\*Commissioner Goodbody left the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:19 p.m.

Commissioner Fabiani moved to approve a new 2-year contract with the Executive Director to be effective beginning November 8, 2023, upon the terms discussed during the Executive Session. Commissioner Punzo seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by all commissioners present at the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT –** Upon a motionbyCommissioner Harris to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Punzo and approved by unanimous vote of all commissioners present at the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.