

MEETING MINUTES

STATE OF WASHINGTON BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS

January 31, 2006

Present:

Chairman: Harry Dudley

Commissioners: C. Davis, Mackey, Niederhauser, Hannigan, Addington, Lee, Palmer and N. Davis

Assistant Attorney General: Susan Cruise

Administrator: Peggy Larson

Richard McCurdy and Walt Tabler: Puget Sound Pilots

Ron Kinsey: USCG Sector Seattle

SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Board of Pilotage Commissioners was convened at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Harry Dudley by telephone conference call originating at the Office of the Board, 2901 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington. The purpose of the special meeting is (1) to discuss the Marine Event Report completed by Captain Pete Williams of Washington State Ferries regarding the *M/V KNUD MAERSK* and the *M/V WENATCHEE* on December 20, 2005, and (2) to discuss Senate Bill 6870 regarding the Board's training program.

M/V KNUD MAERSK / M/V WENATCHEE

The business to be transacted is to make a decision regarding any action the Board wants taken regarding the WSF Marine Event Report or any other aspect of the situation. According to a local newspaper article published recently, it was discovered that the Washington State Ferries investigator reached a different conclusion than the Board regarding this matter. Chairman Dudley proposed that Commissioner Chuck Davis be appointed as a one-person investigation committee to re-examine the circumstances surrounding that event and report his findings to the Board. It was moved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Addington that Commissioner Chuck Davis be formally asked to review the facts of the case relative to the actions of the pilot with no intent to critique the WSF Report. The motion carried. Chairman Dudley will send a written directive to Commissioner Davis requesting him to conduct an independent investigation on behalf of the Board.

Susan Cruise informed the Board that if it is the desire of the Board to formally challenge the WSF Report it has 30 days in which to do so. Further consideration regarding this will be discussed at the next regular Board meeting on February 9, 2006.

Upon completion of his investigation Commissioner Davis will forward his written report to the Board and Captain Robichaux will be given a copy as well.

SENATE BILL 6870

The business to be transacted is to make a decision regarding any action the Board might want to take relative to SB 6870. In the midst of the Board's attempt to amend WAC 363-116-078(10) to resolve certain issues with the Office of Financial Management regarding the payment of trainee stipends, mysteriously a bill was dropped and sponsored by Senator Mary Margaret Haugen which appropriates \$500,000 to the BPC for purposes of paying trainee stipends. No one appears to know exactly who is behind the legislation, other than by speculation. Just prior to its introduction before the Senate Transportation Committee yesterday an amendment was requested by Chairman Dudley to include an additional \$100,000 for purposes of covering additional related Board expenses. The Substitute Bill was introduced and passed out of Committee which provides for a supplemental appropriation of \$600,000 to the BPC budget. \$500,000 will be comprised of \$10 tariff charges per vessel, per trainee, to be used for trainee stipends; and \$100,000 will come from the Board's pilotage account to cover related Board expenditures.

The Bill has an emergency clause that provides for immediate implementation upon signature by the Governor.

In anticipation of the passage of this Bill, BPC staff will coordinate with OFM to establish procedures for the disbursement of trainee stipends by the Board. The Trainee Evaluation Committee will recommend to the Board its determination of what stipend entitlements are forthcoming.

The statutory amendments provided in this Bill constitute a budget appropriation only for the current 2005-2007 Biennium. A permanent solution for resolution of the trainee stipend program will be an issue to re-visit during the next budget preparation cycle and next legislative session.

The Chairman adjourned the special session Board meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Larson, Administrator

Harry H. Dudley, Chairman

Charles M. Davis, Vice Chairman

Commissioner Oliver E. Mackey

Commissioner John S. Niederhauser

Commissioner Patrick M. Hannigan

Commissioner Vincent Addington

Commissioner Craig W. Lee

Commissioner Andrew C. Palmer

Commissioner Norman W. Davis