



**Connecticut Port Authority Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
August 7, 2019 (12:00 PM)**

**Fort Trumbull Conference Room  
90 Walbach Street, New London, CT**

**Attendance**

- Board Members: Acting Chairperson David Kooris; Vice-Chairperson; Parker Wise; Don Frost; Dave Pohorylo; Anna Barry; Jeff Beckham
- CPA Staff: Andrew Lavigne; Joe Salvatore; Casandra Berthiaume; Kim Landess; Paul Whitescarver

**Phone**

- Linda Savitsky; Grant Westerson; John Johnson; Pam Elkow; Scott Bates; Nancy DiNardo

**Absent**

- Jonathan Harris; Brian Thompson; Terry Gilbertson; Joseph Giulietti

**Guests**

- Glenn Santoro; Martha Klimas; Dawn Kallen; Giles Plante; Ed Evans; Paula Clarke; Jim Watson; Kevin Blacker; Kyle Knickerbocker; Bill Gash; Nancy Cowser; Annie Chambers; Scott Allo; Tim Boucher; Rich Nowack; Judi Sheiffe; Stan Mickus; Dave Collins; Julia Bergman
- **Quorum:** Yes

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson Kooris at 12:02 p.m.

**2. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes**

A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Pohorylo, and was so VOTED unanimously. Jeff Beckham abstained.

### **3. Public Participation Relating to Agenda Items**

Kevin Blacker made comments regarding the minutes from the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting stating they didn't accurately reflect the public comments and needed more detail. Also, in response to item #10, Mr. Blacker said he questions about David Kooris residing and his ability in the role in the organization, without an executive director, and what gives him the right to function as executive director. In response to item #11, Mr. Blacker stated he wants a discussion on a rebid of State Pier. Mr. Blacker also asked for consideration of saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of all board meetings.

Acting Chairperson Kooris thanked Mr. Blacker.

### **4. Authority Updates and Vice Chairman Remarks**

Mr. Kooris stated that Governor Lamont is taking the current status of the port authority very seriously. The Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer are taking an in-depth look and assessment of operational activity and managerial activity at the port authority staff and, board activity including aspects of deals in the works or completed. Mr. Kooris stated that his role as acting chairman is to be an active conduit between board and staff and board and Governor's office to ensure an open and consistent line of communication to facilitate Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer in this effort. Governor is requesting the board not to take any major actions while review is underway.

He reassured that they are working hard and quickly to resolve issues so the port authority can continue business. For that, requesting not to take up #10 on the agenda. Per request from governor, we're going to limit our action to #9 which allows them to do bare minimum necessary to allow the port authority to function. Mr. Kooris states again that the governor is taking this seriously and acknowledges the importance the port authority and the need to ensure stakeholders have confidence as a body to implement our mission.

Mr. Kooris addressed the openness and transparency issues. All remaining board meetings of the year will be held at Fort Trumbull at the previously scheduled dates for consistency and certainty. Concerning Freedom of Information requests, all requests have been prioritized over the last two weeks. 11 requests have been made since July 1<sup>st</sup> and 4 of those have been answered. Mr. Kooris stated that this is a significant process that is entailed in gathering documents and ensuring completeness and redacting sensitive or personal information protected in the act. Over the prior 9 months from

October 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 17 requests have been answered in a timely manner. They are doing their best to answer these requests as timely as possible.

Mr. Kooris stated that mid-September a meeting concerning the Harbor Development agreement will be set for redevelopment plans and actions for State Pier.

#### **5. CT Pilot Commission Report/CT Maritime Coalition Report**

Bill Gash stated he sent a letter to the board recommending for the 6% fee currently charged to the pilots, or part of that fee, be made available through a process for pilots to use for safety and security training.

#### **6. United States Coast Guard Report**

No report from the United States Coast Guard.

#### **7. Staff Report**

No report from the staff.

#### **8. Finance Committee Report**

No report from the Finance Committee. August Finance Committee meeting is cancelled due to conflict with Transportation Committee Public Hearing scheduled on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **9. Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing the authorized signatories for Authority bank accounts.**

**RESOLVED: That, David Kooris be and hereby is empowered with signatory authority, for and on behalf of the Connecticut Port Authority, in connection with the execution of any and all reasonable and necessary documents and instruments related to the use and maintenance of the Authority's bank accounts.**

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Savitsky.

#### **10. Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing David Kooris to negotiate, execute and deliver agreements and documents previously authorized by the Board.**

**RESOLVED: That, David Kooris, as a member of the Board of Directors, be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed, for and on behalf of the Connecticut Port Authority, with**

**respect to all resolutions where the Executive Director was so authorized, in addition to the Executive Director, to (i) negotiate, execute and deliver any and all agreements and documents so previously authorized by the Board, and (ii) take such reasonable and necessary actions as are reasonably required in furtherance thereof.**

Per legal, item has been tabled. A motion to table was made by Mr. Beckham and seconded by Mr. Pohorylo and was so voted unanimously.

### **11. New Business**

Mr. Kooris stated per their contractual agreement, communications contractor, Dealy Mahler, gave their 10 day notice late July to terminate contract with the port authority. Dealy Mahler had been going month to month for the last 10 months and did not want to continue in that uncertain situation with month to month authorization.

### **12. Call to the public**

Kevin Blacker thanked the board and the governor saying the review would not be long. He asked it to be completed as quickly as possible because sitting in limbo is going to be the State Pier, SE Connecticut and New London paying the cost. He said Gateway New Haven controlling New London doesn't make sense and will hurt New London and help New Haven. Mr. Blacker stated the port authority returned \$166,000 to Gateway for them not being able to use the pier past the end of the year. Mr. Blacker asks with this review or potential delay, how that's going to impacted. Mr. Kooris explained that the board authorized up to \$166,000 which was the anticipated potential amount of their rent, pro-rated, that would be returned if they are not able to use the pier for the entirety of the year for which they pre-paid rent. No money has yet been returned to Gateway.

### **13. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wise and seconded by Ms. Savitsky, meeting adjourned at 12:26 PM