



BOARD OF EXAMINERS

New Orleans and Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots for the Mississippi River

Casey E. Clayton
President

Kevin G. Alario
Commissioner

Sharon Ann Geraci
Executive Secretary

Lee A. Jackson
Commissioner

MAY 25, 2021 QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

The quarterly meeting was called to order at 1:30p.m. by President Casey Clayton.

2. **Roll Call**

Roll call was taken. Board members present were President Casey Clayton, Captain Lee Jackson, and Captain Kevin Alario.

Also present were Ralph Wall, Cory Grant, Rob Couhig, Jr., Jack Capella, Gino Gondolfi, and Steve Hathorn.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by Captain Alario to approve the April 15, 2021 meeting minutes; seconded by Captain Jackson. The motion was approved.

4. **Old Business**

a. Ratification of Contracts

The Board discussed ratifying the contracts to retain Couhig Partners, LLC as general counsel and Capella Consulting as Board consultant. The Board asked questions regarding the contracts which were answered by Mr. Couhig and Mr. Capella. The Board expressed that the contracts were fair and reasonable. Captain Alario moved to ratify the contracts; seconded by Captain Jackson. The motion was approved.

5. **New Business**

a. Litigation Expenses

The Board noted that the litigation expenses incurred in March and April would be submitted to the Association for payment.

b. HB650

The Board discussed HB650 and stated its opposition to the legislation. Captains Clayton and Jackson noted that they would be testifying in front of the Senate Commerce committee the following day.

c. Standards of Care (S.O.C.)/Regulations

i. 2 pilot ship requirement/daylight only (S.O.C.)

The Board discussed the Standard of Care regarding High Interest Vessels. The Board indicated that it had done research into the Standards of Care and would like to continue to investigate the purposes for which this particular standard was put in place. The Board also stated a desire to work on a definition for High Interest Vessels to be included with the Standard of Care.

ii. Recency Requirements/Regulations

The Board discussed analyzing the current recency requirements and potentially modifying the regulations to ensure that the purpose of recency requirements is being met. The Board discussed the requirements regarding the 20-mile rule and work performed at the VTC. The Board was also advised as to the rule making process and time frame.

iii. BOE position/discussion regarding Retirement Age (70)/Regulations

The Board discussed the issue related to some recent change in practice relative to a pilot surrendering their commission upon reaching the age of 70. The Board noted the need to consider the status of the law and regulations, as well as the need to seek input from the Association. Counsel was directed to conduct preliminary research into prior Acts signed by the Governor and look into requesting an Attorney General opinion, if necessary.

iv. Qualifications for Application to NOBRA/Regulations

The Board expressed interest in studying pilot apprenticeship application process to NOBRA as well as the pilot qualification requirements. The Board wants study resources, including the process for other pilot groups, to determine if any improvements to these regulations can be made.

v. 12 Hour Rest/Emergency Rule/Regulations

The Board noted that the emergency rule regarding mandatory rest was renewed on April 29, 2021. The Board expressed interest in making the 12-hour rest rule a permanent regulation. A discussion was held regarding making any potential rule changes together instead of doing them one by one.

d. BOE Website; Recent Additions; Suggestions

The Board noted that its new members had been added to the BOE's website and that a section for meeting agenda and minutes had been added. A discussion was held regarding the best way of notifying pilots of the meeting to encourage attendance.

e. BOE Office Needs

The Board discussed its desire to find another office space the Board was advised as to the legal procedure the Board must go through to do that. A discussion was held regarding the Board's current arrangement for office space.

f. Executive Session

Captain Jackson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss incidents pending before the BOE and individual pilot review; Seconded by Captain Alario. The Motion was Approved.

i. Incidents Pending before the BOE

ii. Individual Pilot Review

iii. Return to Regular Session

Captain Jackson made a motion to return to regular session; Seconded by President Clayton. The Motion was Approved.

6. Adjournment

Captain Alario made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Captain Jackson. The Motion was Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14p.m.