

# ALBANY PORT DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

**OCTOBER 28, 2020** 

Due to the pandemic the October 28, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting was held remotely pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 202.1, issued March 12, 2020, which suspended Article 7 of the Public Officers Law related to public body meetings. Prior to the meeting being called to order General Counsel Jordan noted that the meeting was being recorded and transmitted via on-line video. Chairperson Steffens called the meeting to order. In attendance were Commissioners Cinquanti, Coffey and Tagliento. Also present were CEO Hendrick, General Counsel Jordan, Economic Development and Procurement Director Daly, CFO Stuto, Maritime Business Development Manager Vasil, Deputy Director of Security Teller and Administrative Assistant DiLillo. Also joining the meeting was Richard Farrell from the Maritime Ministry.

Chairperson Steffens introduced the minutes of the September 23, 2020 Commission meeting and the October 15, 2020 Special Commission meeting. No changes were made to the minutes. Chairperson Steffens called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Coffey, seconded by Commissioner Tagliento and passed unanimously. Chairperson Steffens called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2020 Special Commission meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Cinquanti, seconded by Commissioner Coffey and passed unanimously.

# **FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Commissioner Coffey reported that the Finance Committee met prior to the regular meeting and CFO Stuto presented an update on the third quarter financials as of September 30, 2020 and the year-end projections. Commissioner Coffey stated that CFO Stuto reported that there were little to no changes. He reported that CFO Stuto also presented an update on the proposed 2021 Budget. Commissioner Coffey stated that the items that were discussed by the Board last

meeting were addressed by the staff in a satisfactory manner and that the amendments were incorporated into the proposed 2021 Budget. He also noted that the budget goals that were established as a part of the annual budget process were reviewed. Commissioner Coffey stated that the Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed 2021 Budget.

# PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET

Chairperson Steffens presented Resolution 24-2020 regarding the proposed 2021 Budget. Chairperson Steffens called for a motion to approve Resolution 24-2020. A motion was made by Commissioner Coffey, seconded by Commissioner Cinquanti and passed unanimously.

## **CEO UPDATE**

CEO Hendrick updated the Board on the following:

- Discussions continue with Ardent Mills regarding their development of a new offloading facility.
- Construction of the new maritime warehouse is continuing on schedule.
- The sale of 900 Smith Blvd. was completed.
- CEO Hendrick confirmed the Port completed its work on the submissions of the offshore wind procurement to NYSERDA.

# REAL PROPERTY/DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Director Daly reported that the NYSERDA applications are complete and submissions have been made. She mentioned that there has been significant interest in the property located at 700 Smith Blvd.

#### MARITIME BUSINESS ASSESSMENT

Manager Vasil provided an overview of the Ships, Barges and Tonnage Report and Longshore Hours Report for the fourth quarter.

- Woodpulp: Ships and Barges increased with 8 last year and 10 this year.
- Tonnage increased, 50,000 last year versus 66,000 this year, up 32%. Approximately 40,000 of the 66,000 tons is from a new customer.
- Anticipates two more vessels and approximately an additional 12,000 tons before the end of the year.
- For 2021 anticipates 6 more ships and 20,000 tons of woodpulp from the new customer.
- Scrap metal increased one ship and 15,000 tons.
- Heavy lift cargo increased with 14 vessels this year versus 10 last year, up 40%.
- Tonnage for heavy lift cargo increase by 12,002 tons, up 29 %.

- Anticipates 3 barges for heavy lift cargo in December.
- Longshore hours are up 3% 581 hour increase over this time last year.
- Consumer Market: There has been a lot of fluctuations in the market. Earlier in the year container carriers have cancelled some of their sailings, which increased prices. Now exports from China are increasing, but prices remain high.
- Winter Port Marketing Program: Port of Albany is a finalist in the winter port concept.

Chairperson Steffens asked Manager Vasil if he anticipates this year's longshore hours to be the same or above last year? Manager Vasil responded that he expects it to be the same.

Commissioner Coffey asked Manager Vasil how he sees the consumer market to be in the next six months. Manager Vasil responded that he expects the consumer market to slow down and go back to being more stable.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Farrell from the Maritime Ministry reported that the Ministry has been able to make visitations and provide hospitality to the crews on the ships recently coming into the Port. Mr. Farrell thanked the Port team for assisting and providing the necessary information of incoming ships. He stated that the Ministry has been working on tracking the nationality and number of crew members in order to cover the demographics of the people they service. He stated that COVID has made their work challenging, but they are adjusting.

Chairperson Steffens stated that Board and Port staff would like to again participate in the Christmas at Sea Program and asked Mr. Farrell to forward information regarding it.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no items for discussion in Executive Session.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Chairperson Steffens informed all those in attendance that the **next meeting of the <u>APDC</u>**<u>Board of Commissioners</u> will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 immediately following the Governance Committee Meeting held at 12:00 p.m.

Chairperson Steffens called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Coffey, seconded by Commissioner Cinquanti and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.