

Minutes of Meeting

28 May 2014

The Pilotage Commission for the Port of Georgetown held a regularly scheduled meeting on May 28th, 2014 for the purpose of holding a Business Meeting. The meeting, held at 5:00 pm in the United Way building on Front Street in Georgetown, was duly published.

Attending Commissioners:

Lep Boyd, Chair
Clayton Bull

Edwin Jayroe
Steve Strickland

Guests

Kitty Cox, LLR
Scott McDonald
Debbie Herndon – Norton Lilly
Michael Elmore – SCSPA

Dave Barber – Biehl & Co.
Steve Kicklighter – McAllister
Brad Stroble – SCSPA
Bill Crowther - Alliance

The Chairman called the meeting to Order.

Administrator's Report – Kitty Cox gave an overview of LLR and how they support the Pilotage Commission.

SCSPA Report – Brad Stroble gave a presentation on port rates, based on an average ship of 355 feet LOA, to compare costs of Georgetown, Charleston, Wilmington, Savannah, and Morehead City. The rates were broken down to tugs, pilots, dockage, and security, with an estimate of 20K, 16K, 15.5K, 13K and 13.5K respectively. Pilot rates for Georgetown were over twice the other port locations. Vessel traffic for Georgetown was reported at 14 ships in 2009, 6 ships in 2010, 7 ships in both 2011 and 2012, 10 ships in 2013, and an estimated 6 ships in 2014.

Pilot's Report – Edwin Jayroe provided an update of pilotage costs and possible loss of pilot boat due to lack of shipping and cost to maintain boat. Pilots are looking for any option to provide service to the port.

A general discussion followed, with the following topics:

1. How does port continue without pilot boat
2. Is dredging funding anywhere in sight to help shipping numbers
3. Current pilot boat is up for sale
4. Can SPA lease a boat for Georgetown similar to Port Royal in the past/
5. Cost of maintaining a ship in Georgetown are approximately \$100K to \$150 K/yr
6. Use of tugboat or other launch service to transport pilots, requires purpose built boat.
7. Need to notify elected officials of change of service conditions in port

Other business –Bill Crowther, director of the Alliance for Economic Development gave an update on dredging funding and local option sales tax vote. Local government was committed to \$6.5M, the state was committed to \$15M over 3 years, and a Federal water bill was in the works to support emerging ports.

Pilot Jayroe requested that the SCSPA get involved in helping to find a solution to support the port.

No further business was brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven G. Strickland