

**Maryland Port Commission**  
**Open Session Minutes**  
**April 5, 2022**

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The Three Hundred and Eighty Sixth Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 10:00 am by Deputy Secretary of Transportation Sean Powell. The Commission met in Open Session from 10:00 am until 11:04 am in the Stanton Room, 20<sup>th</sup> floor, World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

**Present:** Deputy Secretary Powell and Commissioners Dandy, Dean, Huber (by phone), Lunn (by phone), McDonald, and Richardson.

**Staff:** William Doyle (Executive Director), Brian Miller (Deputy Executive Director), Bob Munroe (Deputy Executive Director), Christina Nichols (Chief of Staff), Phillip Whaling (MPA Deputy Counsel), Rick Powers (Director of Marketing), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Dominic Scurti (Director of Planning), Kristen Fidler (Director of Harbor Development), David Espie (Director of Security), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering), Mary Kay Radford (Finance Manager), Brad Smith (Director of Maritime Commercial Management), Jennifer Guthrie (Legislative Manager), and Cindy Burman (General Manager, Cruise).

**Minutes of the Three Hundred and Eighty Fifth Open and Closed Session Meeting**

Commissioner McDonald moved to approve the Open Session Minutes of the Three Hundred and Eighty Fifth Port Commission meeting. Commissioner Dandy seconded the motion. The Commission then voted unanimously to approve the Open Session Minutes.

**Executive Director Update, William P. Doyle**

**Ever Forward Grounding**

Mr. Doyle informed the Commission that the United States Coast Guard (USCG) announced a revised strategy to refloat the container ship EVER FORWARD effective immediately. The information Mr. Doyle presented came directly from the USCG bulletin that was sent on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

- *Salvage experts determined they would not be able to overcome the ground force of the EVER FORWARD in its current loaded condition. The previously announced dredging will continue to a depth of 43 feet and shipping containers will now be removed as soon as the installation of two crane barges are installed.*
- *The containers will be removed in daylight hours only for safety purposes from both the port and starboard sides of the vessel and placed on receiving deck barges. Then, these barges will shuttle the containers back to the Port of Baltimore's Seagirt Marine Terminal, where they will be offloaded by Ports America Chesapeake's cranes.*
- *Once the containers are removed, tugs and pull barges will attempt another refloat. The shipping channel will remain open to one-way traffic during these operations, any changes will be announced via normal maritime means.*
- *All aspects of the operation should take approximately two weeks, however, that timeline*

*may change based on weather conditions and other variables outside of the control of the Unified Command.*

- *A 500-yard safety zone around the ship in the Chesapeake Bay will continue for the duration of the operation and the adjacent shipping channel will remain unaffected. The zone has been established to provide for the safety of persons involved in the salvage operation as well as the integrity of the marine environment.*
- *Ensuring the ship's stability and monitoring for any signs of pollution continue to be top priorities for the Unified Command and responders. In addition to regular soundings of fuel and ballast tanks, a naval architect and salvage master are remotely monitoring a recently installed sensor system to constantly evaluate the ship's stability and integrity and will continue to do so throughout the refloat operation. They will also continue to conduct regular visits to the ship.*
- *The EVER FORWARD salvage operation began Sunday, March 13 after the ~ 12,000 TEU container ship grounded in the Chesapeake Bay near Craighill Channel.*

#### New Business – Zim Line

- A new direct container service with Israel-based ZIM Shipping Line, will begin calls at the Port of Baltimore in May. The name of the new service is the **Zim e-Commerce Baltimore express (ZXB)**, a service from China and Southeast Asia to the U.S. East Coast. ZIM operates a fleet of close to 100 vessels worldwide and is one of the largest carriers in the trade.
  - Ports America Chesapeake (PAC) and the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) have been in discussions with Zim on a new service. Zim leadership also met with Governor Hogan, MPA and PAC to discuss the details of the new service.
  - Zim has been sending ships on an *ad hoc* basis into the Port of Baltimore since the beginning of the year. The new service will begin with bi-weekly frequency and build up to weekly within a few months. ZXB is operated exclusively by ZIM and offers its customers the fastest transit time from Asia to Baltimore. From Baltimore, the ships will call on the ports of New York/New Jersey, Boston and then back to Asia.
- There is a need for utilization of more gateways such as Baltimore to land cargo in the United States. Import/export demand for containerized cargo has substantially increased over the past year. With that demand, port congestion is at an all-time high.
- Baltimore is a prime gateway for goods heading to the ecommerce market and for cargo sent to the Midwest via rail. Maryland's Port has handled more than 40 calls since July 2020 from "ad hoc" ships.
- The addition of ZIM follows another recent container service that began last year at the Port of Baltimore: a new Indian Subcontinent and Mediterranean service through Mediterranean Shipping Co. (Indus 2).
- The new Seagirt berth and cranes will complement the Howard Street Tunnel expansion project which will allow for double-stacked container rail cars, clearing a longtime hurdle for the Port and giving the East Coast seamless double-stack capacity from Maine to Florida. With the tunnel expansion project, Baltimore will be able to send double stacked containers by rail into the Ohio Valley and onto Chicago.

### Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project:

- In January, the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, located in Dorchester County, Maryland, received \$37.5 million in federal construction funding through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FY2022 Supplemental Work Plan.
- This FY2022 Supplemental Work Plan funding was a part of \$14 billion released in January to the Army Corps through the bipartisan infrastructure law.
- On March 31, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers allocated an additional \$46,493,000 in federal construction funding for Mid-Bay. This funding comes through an addendum to the Army Corps' FY2022 Supplemental Work Plan.
- The additional \$46.5 million included in the addendum will allow the Army Corps to initiate James Island construction, perform engineering during construction, perform construction management, and stakeholder coordination.
- In total for FY2022, the Mid-Bay project has been allocated \$83.9 million.
- This combined funding guarantees the construction of the Mid-Bay project will begin in September 2022, which will restore island habitat at James and Barren Islands and help protect Dorchester County shoreline from erosion. The project will also help maintain our vital shipping arteries, promoting safe navigation and efficiency and a boost to Maryland's regional economy.
- Restoration around Barren Island will commence first, with construction beginning in September. James Island construction is anticipated in 2024.
- James Island will accommodate an estimated 90 million to 95 million cubic yards of dredged sediment, providing at least 30 years of capacity.

### Security Update, David Espie, Director of Security

Mr. Espie provided the Commissioners with an overview of the State of MPA Security, highlights of his presentation included:

- The MPA has received 13 consecutive years of an excellent inspection rating by the USCG.
- Areas of oversight include:
  - MPA Security Policy - constantly being updated and reviewed in accordance with both COMAR and federal statutes.
  - Contract management of Allied Universal, Security Guard Services (\$3.4 million annually).
  - Access Control Security measures implemented by Allied Universal, 24/7 operation.
  - Memorandum of Agreement with MDTA Police-Port Detachment (\$7.5 million annually).
    - MDTA Police are a nationally accredited law enforcement agency used for all MPA terminals and the World Trade Center.
  - Closed Circuit Television Monitoring (CCTV) Center
  - TWIC Escort Program
  - Seafarers Access Program

- Bi-annual Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation
- The Port Security Grant Program
  - Annual funding \$100 million – 25% cost share.
- Challenges include:
  - Unique Terminal Layouts
  - World Trade Center
  - Varied cargoes
  - Maintaining effective sound access control systems
  - Gleaning current and beneficial intelligence
  - Recruiting of law enforcement and security personnel
- Threat concerns:
  - Deter terrorism
  - Cruise ships
  - Cargo theft
  - Item theft in the terminals and at the World Trade center
  - Controlled substances
  - Active shooter
  - Cyber crime
  - Unauthorized access
  - Unmanned aircraft systems (drones)

**Contracts for Approval, John Thornton, Manager of Procurement**

Contract 218001-S – Security Guard Services, Modification No. 4; Allied Universal Security Services; Term: 05/01/2022 – 08/03/2024; \$600,000

Motion to approve made by Commissioner McDonald, seconded by Commissioner Dandy, and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Ms. Kathy Donnelly, Business Manager, Carnival Cruise Lines, presented the Maryland Port Commission with a cake to celebrate the 50-year Anniversary of Carnival Cruise Line. Ms. Donnelly thanked the Maryland Port Commission and the Maryland Port Administration for being an excellent partner with Carnival.

**Move into Closed Session**

At 11:04 am, in accordance with State Government Article, Section 10-508 (a)(4), Annotated Code of Maryland, Commissioner Richardson moved that the Commission meet in Closed Session, and Commissioner Dean seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. See attached Closing Statement. The Commission met in Closed Session from am until am. Deputy Secretary Powell and Commissioners Dandy, Dean, Huber, Lunn, McDonald, and Richardson, William Doyle (Executive Director), Robert Munroe (Deputy Executive Director), Christina Nichols (Chief of Staff), Phil Whaling (Acting Assistant Attorney General and Principal Counsel) were present. No actions were taken in the closed session and the meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dandy and seconded by Commissioner Dean. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.