**Maryland Port Commission**

**Open Session Minutes**

**March 2, 2021**

The Three Hundred and Seventy Fourth Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 9:03 am by Secretary Gregory Slater via teleconferencing. The Commission met in Open Session from 9:03 am until 9:45 am.

**Present:** Secretary Slater and Commissioners Dandy, Dean, Huber, Lunn, McDonald, and Richardson

**Staff:** William Doyle (Executive Director), Brian Miller (Deputy Executive Director), Bob Munroe (MPA Principal Counsel), Christina Nichols (Chief of Staff), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Rick Powers (Director of Marketing), Wonza Spann-Nicholas (Director of Finance), Kristen Fidler (Director of Harbor Development), David Espie (Director of Security), Ryan Barry (Director of Operations), Dominic Scurti (Director of Planning), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering), Brad Smith (General Manager of Strategic Initiatives), Jennifer Guthrie (Legislative Manager), John Thornton (Manager of Procurement), Holly Miller (Harbor Development), Cornelius Baumer (Engineering), and Billy Whitecotton (Engineering).

**Minutes of the Three Hundred and Seventy Third Open Session Meeting**

Commissioner McDonald moved to approve the Open Session Minutes of the Three Hundred and Seventy Third Port Commission meeting with the correction by Commissioner McDonald of “Polar” to “Poplar” in the first sentence of paragraph 2 of the Executive Director Business Update to the meeting minutes. Commissioner Dandy seconded the motion to include the change. The minutes were approved unanimously without discussion.

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

Mr. Doyle deferred updates to members of MPA staff presenting on the agenda.

**Howard Street Tunnel Expansion Update, Brad Smith, General Manager of Strategic Initiatives**

Mr. Smith provided an update on the Howard Street Tunnel Expansion. The Howard Street Tunnel Project consists of double-stack clearance improvements at 23 locations between Baltimore and Philadelphia including tunnel modification, bridge modification, bridge replacement, and track lowering at 19 locations in MD, DE, and PA. Highlights of the presentation included:

* The project is being evaluated in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
* An Environmental Assessment (EA) of the project is currently under a 30-day public review and comment period
* An outreach plan during the 30-day comment period includes:
* Project website
* Public outreach video
* E-blast
* Direct outreach to federal, state, and local elected officials
* Direct outreach to community associations
* MPA press release
* Social media
* The EA document is available for review; public comment will continue through Tuesday March 31, 2021
* Comments will be considered when drafting the final NEPA document
* CSX is expected to begin construction, in phases, later in 2021

**Seagirt Dredging Update, Kristen Fidler, Director of Harbor Development**

Ms. Fidler provided an update on the Dredging Project at Seagirt Marine Terminal. Highlights of her presentation included:

* Seagirt Marine Terminal is a dedicated container terminal which currently has one 50- foot berth to accommodate Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCV’s) with an increasing number of ULCV’s calling on Baltimore’s Port
* The dredging project deepening Berth 3, widening the approach channel and Tunnel Basin, and maintenance dredging of parts of the approach channel
* Contract award and notice to proceed were issued on 12/21/20, dredging commenced on 01/17/2021, and project completion is expected 04/21/21
* As of March 2, 2021 the project is 52% complete

**Seagirt Berth 3 Construction Update, Brian Miller, Deputy Executive Director**

Mr. Miller provided an update on the Berth 3 Construction progress at Seagirt Marine Terminal. He reported that Phase One construction is underway with marginal wharf excavation nearly complete, fascia demolition underway, fender and sheet pile removal nearly complete and new fenders and sheet piles arriving at the site. Phase One dredging is scheduled to start late June, 2021 and conclude mid-July, 2021, and phase one construction is scheduled to be completed mid-July 2021. Phase two construction is scheduled mid-July 2021 and conclude January 2022.

Construction is ongoing with minimal day-to-day impact to terminal operations.

Upon completion of the Berth 3 construction phase one, four existing Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries Company Limited (ZPMC) cranes will transition to Berth Three as ZPMC is constructing four ship to shore cranes for Berth 4. The new cranes have been erected and component installation continues. Crane acceptance testing is scheduled to begin the week of 03/08/21 and upon completion of the acceptance testing and punch list ZPMC will prepare to lower the girder, boom, and back reach for shipping. Anticipated arrival to Seagirt is August, 2021 and the cranes will be unloaded using the eastern end of Berth 4.

**Dundalk Marine Terminal Berth 3 Update, Steve Johnson, Director of Engineering**

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Whitecotton, Engineering, to provide the update on the progress of Berth 3 at Dundalk Marine Terminal. Mr. Whitecotton provided the following timeline:

* MDOT MPA contract notice to proceed: February 1, 2021
* Utility disconnection for Shed 3: February 10, 2021
* Shed 3 demolition: February 25, 2021
* Demolition of Shed 3 concrete slab: March 18, 2021
* Demolition of utilities: April 8, 2021
* King pile wall construction and relieving platform construction: April 15, 2021
* Stormwater and drainage pipes construction: May 12, 2021

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

Mr. Thornton requested approval for the following contracts:

**Contract 218013-S** – Hazardous and Nonhazardous Waste Management, Renewal No. 1; Allstate Power Vac, Inc., dba ACV Enviro, APV; Term: 10/17/2021 – 10/16/2023; $1,500,000.

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

**Contract 218002-M** – Fire Protection System Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair, Modification No. 1; Advanced Fire Protection Systems, LLC; Term: 04/01/2021 – 05/31/2023; $600,000.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Dean, seconded by Commissioner Huber and approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Contract 218029-S** – Port of Baltimore Magazine, Renewal; Media Two, LLC, dba Today Media Custom Communications; Term: 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2023; $400,000.

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

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner McDonald. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.