

Maryland Port Commission
Open Session Minutes
May 5, 2020

The Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 9:55 am by Deputy Secretary Sean Powell via teleconferencing. The Commission met in Open Session from 9:55 until 10:22 am.

Present: Deputy Secretary Powell and Commissioners Dandy, Dean, Huber, Lunn, McDonald and Richardson.

Staff: Dave Thomas (Acting Executive Director), Bob Munroe (MPA Principal Counsel), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Richard Powers (Director of Marketing), Mike Miller (Director of Maritime Commercial Management), Wonza Spann-Nicholas (Director, Finance), Kristen Fidler (Director of Harbor Development), Dominic Scurti (Deputy Director of Planning), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering), David Espie (Director of Security), Brian Miller (Director of Operations), Jennifer Guthrie (Legislative Manager), Courtney Highsmith (Assistant Secretary, MDOT), John Timmins (Marketing), John Thornton (Manager of Procurement) and Christina Nichols (Executive Office)

Deputy Secretary Sean Powell stated due to the COVID-19 situation, this meeting is being conducted exclusively by conference call. The public is welcome to call in to listen to the Open Session of this meeting; however, there will not be an opportunity for public comments or questions. He instructed the attendees from the public who may have a question regarding the matters deliberated by the Maryland Port Commission during this meeting to email their question to cnichols@marylandports.com following the meeting and include with their question their name, affiliation, and agenda item that they have a question concerning, and an answer will be provided.

Minutes of the Three Hundred and Sixty Fourth Open and Closed Session Meetings

Commissioner McDonald moved to approve the Open Session Minutes of the Three Hundred and Sixty Fourth Port Commission meeting. Commissioner Dean seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously without discussion.

COVID-19, Dave Thomas, Acting Executive Director

Mr. Thomas reported the Port of Baltimore has remained open for business for all cargo operations since the onset of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Ports America Chesapeake continues to adjust the operating hours of the Seagirt Marine Terminal. They have also closed Seagirt six times in the last two months. These changes have been due to lower international container volumes. Even when the truck gates are closed, ships are still being worked. MPA public marine terminals have continued to operate regular hours for delivery and receipt of cargo.

Mr. Thomas stated this has been an extremely difficult time for the maritime shipping industry. The entire international supply chain has been impacted. Many ports around the U.S. are experiencing lower cargo volumes, and the Port of Baltimore (POB) is no different. However, POB numbers so far have been better than some other ports, particularly West Coast ports. Through March, POB general cargo was down 5.2%, autos were down 13.2%, and containers were down 7%. MPA expects to be down for the second quarter, followed by a gradual flattening in the third quarter and improvement in the fourth quarter. MPA staff is working closely with our terminal operators and customers managing any space issues that may result from, for instance cars that may be sitting longer than normal. Staff continue to collaborate regularly with ILA leadership, the STA, BPA, USCG, CBP, our tenants, and our customers as we navigate through these unprecedented times.

Governor Hogan made the decision to close our cruise terminal the beginning of March. MPA staff have been communicating frequently with both Carnival and Royal Caribbean cruise lines and certainly look forward to seeing them return as soon as it is deemed safe to do so but that date is still undetermined at this time.

The majority of MPA employees have continued teleworking. MPA has a skeleton staff of Operations and Security personnel reporting to the terminals each day. Mr. Thomas commended all MPA employees for their resiliency, flexibility and ability to adapt to these new ways of conducting business. MPA staff look forward to returning to the workplace when it is healthy enough to do so.

Bulk Cargo Update, John Timmins, Marketing

Mr. Timmins provided an update on Bulk Cargo Commodities handled at the Port of Baltimore public and private marine terminals. Highlights of Mr. Timmins presentation included:

- Export Coal
 - POB handled 20.8 million short tons of coal in 2019.
 - Met coal for steel production is the main type of coal exported from the POB with main destinations to India, Europe and Asia.
 - Coal volume remains strong in early 2020.
- Imported Sugar
 - POB handled 714,255 tons of sugar in 2019.
 - Cargo sourced from South America in bulk, organic sugar arrives from Central America in containers. Domestic barge shipments from Florida.
 - Domino Sugar reports demand is up with baking and cooking at home.
- Imported Salt
 - POB handled 1.07 million tons of imported salt in 2019.
 - Mild winters since 2015 have resulted in declining volumes.
- Imported Alumina
 - POB handled 339,369 tons of imported alumina in 2019.
 - Cargo arrives from Brazil to Hawkins Point Marine Terminal.
- Imported Gypsum

- POB handled 777,650 tons of imported gypsum in 2019.
- Gypsum is used to make construction materials such as wallboard and drywall products.
- Imported Pulp
 - POB handled 252,830 tons of imported pulp in 2019.
 - Pulp is a semi-finished product used in production of paper towels, napkins, diapers, etc.
- Imported Paper
 - POB handled 524,609 tons of imported paper in 2019.
 - Metsa Board opened new mill late 2016 in Sweden resolving quality issues.

Contracts for Approval, John Thornton, Manager of Procurement

Contract 519809 – Agency-wide Utility Upgrades: Joseph B. Fay Company, Glen Burnie, MD;
Term: 06/04/2020 – 06/03/2023; \$10 million NTE

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dandy and seconded by Commissioner McDonald. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.