

**NEW HAVEN PORT AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL MEETING #175  
MAY 12, 2022**

This was an entirely remote meeting.

Chairman Abbagnaro called the Special Meeting of the New Haven Port Authority to order at 7:00 PM.

Commissioners Present: John Abbagnaro, Chair, Patricia Drax, Treasurer, Chuck Mascola, Secretary, Giovanni Zinn

Staff Present: Sally Kruse, Judi Sheiffele

Counsel: Carolyn Kone, Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman

Public: Jim Dillman – Gateway Terminal, Gene Harris

**AGENDA**

**MINUTES**

**1. Submittal of PIDP Grant Application to Support Rail Spur installation by Gateway Terminal**

The subject of the special meeting was the application by the New Haven Port Authority (NHPA) to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) for a Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant administered by the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD). The project entails construction and installation of almost one mile of rail to accommodate more rail cars providing greater efficiency for intermodal cargo, which in turn is expected to increase the attractiveness of the port of New Haven for cargo shipments. The project has been the subject of two previous grant applications, including one in 2021 for a PIDP grant, which was denied due to MARAD's opinion that the Benefit Cost Analysis provided was not sufficient. For the 2022 grant application, additional work was put into the Benefit Cost Analysis. Additionally, the Commissioners considered submittal of a letter of support for the project and the grant application.

The history of the three grants applications and the changes to the grant application from 2021 to 2022 were reviewed briefly by the Executive Director, Sally Kruse. More details of the grant application history and specific changes to the application were provided by Jim Dillman of Gateway Terminal, who has spearheaded the application and borne all the application costs. Additionally, Gateway will provide the 20% non-Federal partnership funding for the project. The total cost will be approximately \$7.2 million. Gateway has ensured that the Connecticut Port Authority does not intend to submit a PIDP grant application in 2022, ensuring no competition for funding within the state deep-water ports.

Mr. Dillman spoke about having received letters of support from various state officials and legislators, as well as from the Connecticut Port Authority in 2022, as well as having received a letter of support from the City of New Haven for the 2021 application.

Attorney Kone summarized her review of the application materials and the changes that she made to correctly describe the NHPA role in conjunction with the consultant preparing the application. The NHPA will serve as a pass-through entity and will not have obligations to manage or oversee the project. A letter agreement was signed by herself and Mr. Dillman outlining the next step as being development of a sub-grantee application that will explain the relative duties and obligations of the NHPA and

Gateway with respect to this grant. The NHPA will have no obligations other than passing through the money and Gateway will indemnify the NHPA in case of problems. The letter states that the NHPA reserves the right to withdraw as applicant if such agreements cannot be reached. The letter includes a deadline to have the agreement in place by the middle of June 2022.

There was discussion of postponing creation of such an agreement until after the grant was awarded because MARAD will set out the obligations of the grantee at that time. Attorney Kone suggested that agreement could be drafted to include the potential amendment post grant award to incorporate exact obligations.

The drafted letter of support was reviewed, and state and federal congressional leaders were added as cc's per suggestion.

Commissioner Abbagnaro put forth two motions:

- 1) For the NHPA to serve as applicant for the PIDP grant
- 2) For the NHPA to submit the drafted letter of support with the additional cc's

Commissioner Drax seconded these motions.

By roll call vote, all Commissioners present at the meeting voted to serve as applicant for the PIDP grant.

By separate roll call vote, all Commissioners present at the meeting voted to submit the letter of support per the motion.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Harris asked how the work might be performed if the grant application were rejected. Gateway would not perform the work, but the project could still be considered a need. No other public comments were received.

**ADJOURNMENT** Upon a motion by Commissioner Abbagnaro, seconded by Commissioner Drax, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm with all Commissioners present voting aye.