

PORT OF OSWEGO AUTHORITY
Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, August 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Cosemento called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

PRESENT: Constance Cosemento - Vice Chairperson; Stanley Delia, Kathleen Macey, Dr. John Kares Smith, Tom Schneider, and William Scriber - Executive Director.

ALSO PRESENT: Pat McMahon - Supervisor of Development & Maintenance, Kim Natoli - Port Employee, Dr. Robert Morgan - Vice President of the H. Lee White Maritime Museum and Ms. Mercedes Niess - Executive Director of the H. Lee White Maritime Museum.

ABSENT: Mr. Francis Enwright and Ms. Diane Zeller.

PRESENTATION

A presentation was made by Mr. William Scriber, Executive Director, on the Economic Impacts of Maritime Shipping in the Port of Oswego report, which is released once every five years and was funded by St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, American Great Lakes Port Association, and others. The study took over eight months to complete, and included 800 individuals gathering over 1,000 data points used to create the report. Data was verified by both the Canadian and America governments. Some highlights of the report are:

- economic activity generated over half billion dollars related to maritime operations at the Port
- the Port's revenue impact or business operations on cargo operations was over \$399.8 million
- jobs – a surge in jobs, from 209 jobs in 2017, increasing to 2229 jobs in 2022
- 300 indirect jobs support other jobs in the overall community
- the Port is a job creator for the regional community but also for the state
- taxes – employees, cargo handled, and the economic activity the Port supports generates taxes; over \$80 million in federal and state taxes generated through cargo operations
- of the three ports on this report in New York state, the Port had 49% of the economic activity, 63% of business revenue, and 43% of local purchases in New York

Dr. Kares Smith inquired the meaning of induced jobs; Mr. Scriber explained that activities at the Port induce other employment at another place. Mr. Delia inquired about the firm, Martin Associates, and how they were paid. Mr. Scriber explained that 80% was paid by the U.S. DOT and federal Canadian government, and the remainder paid by the other ports listed in the report. Ms. Cosemento asked if another business falls into the same category with similar economic contributions; Mr. Scriber was unaware of another business with a similar economic benefit that was commercial-based, not a taxing-base; the Port is tax-generating. Mr. Schneider commented that there are not a lot of organizations in the county that have the ability or capability anymore to have economic impact studies. Mr. Schneider also stated that none of the Port's revenue stems from tax-payer authority, but we have earned grants at the state and federal level that assist in providing the infrastructure of the Port.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 08-21-2301: A motion was made by Dr. Kares Smith to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023 regular monthly meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Delia. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Scriber, Executive Director, presented the Administrative Operational Report to the Board and addressed any questions or comments.

Report Topics:

Monthly operations update – July 2023

Update on projects:

- Monthly tonnage report with trucks, ships.
- West-side Marina Project – approved spud installation for docks, now awaiting the company to arrive to drive the spuds to attach the docks – September time frame.
- Short Sea Shipping Project – first phase complete, second phase has started. NDA’s have been signed.
- RV Park – is completed. Contractor completed the saw cut, sewer test has passed. RV Park will be opened.
- American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) – attended annual conference (end of July) in Chicago, Illinois; was elected Secretary of AGLPA. First time that Lake Ontario has had an officer in the AGLPA (a lobbying organization, advocates for the ports on the American-side of the Great Lakes).

ADMINISTRATIVE FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion 08-21-2302: A motion was made by Mr. Schneider to accept the July financial reports that were complete at the time of the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Macey. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.

Primary Financial Reports

Cash Position

Subsidiary Financial Reports

Monthly Bills

Chairman’s Report: No report (Mr. Enwright absent for a family function).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Ms. Cosemento had nothing new to report.

Audit and Finance Committee: Mr. Schneider had nothing new to report.

Governance Committee: Dr. Kares Smith had nothing new to report. Dr. Kares Smith did comment that he attempted to make contact with leaders of Onondaga County and Micron representatives in regards to the potential water usage by Micron, and a long-establish rule if using Great Lakes water that it must be returned in better condition than when it was taken for use. He did write and mailed a letter to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht about this issue and wanted the Board to be aware. Dr. Morgan did comment that the issue has been addressed in a meeting in Onondaga County.

Planning and Development Committee: Ms. Macey reported that Mr. Scriber sent her options for the restrooms at the west-side marina. Mr. Scriber explained that the restrooms and showers will be unisex and handicapped-accessible.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Mercedes Niess, Executive Director of the H. Lee White Maritime Museum, and Dr. Robert Morgan, H. Lee White Maritime Museum Vice President, attended this month's meeting. Ms. Niess shared the Port's recent economic report with the Museum's Board members. Ms. Niess expressed interest in working with the Port on future developments involving issues involving tourism (i.e. cruise ships). Ms. Niess also spoke about receiving the contract from Albany for the LT-5, who shared it with Mr. Scriber. Mr. Scriber advised that he is awaiting advisement from the attorneys on the issue. Ms. Niess and Dr. Morgan are hoping to have the fuel from the LT-5 removed in the coming months.

Ms. Niess also shared that their DLR report is being finalized, and it will be shared with the Museum's Board and an outside committee within the week, meaning the market feasibility study would be complete. The next step would be a business plan and design for the new building for the Museum. Mr. Scriber requested that be shared with the Port's Board when complete.

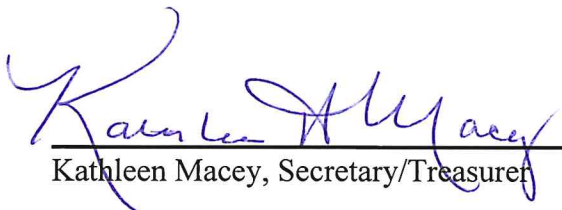
Dr. Morgan commented that the Museum has future hopes in hosting future tall ship events and cruise ships. The Museum is also moving forward on their schooner, and have received a matching a grant from the Shineman Foundation. Dr. Morgan is hoping for assistance in funding for the next plan for the Museum building and working together in the future.

Motion 08-21-2303: A motion was made by Ms. Macey to move to executive session at 5:34 PM for CSEA negotiations. Dr. Kares Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.

Motion 08-21-2304: A motion was made by Dr. Kares Smith to resume the regular monthly meeting at 5:45 PM. Motion seconded by Mr. Delia. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 08-21-2305: A motion was made by Mr. Schneider and seconded by Ms. Macey to adjourn the regular monthly meeting at 5:46 PM. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.



Kathleen Macey, Secretary/Treasurer