

**Maryland Port Commission**  
**Open Session Minutes**  
**June 4, 2019**

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The Three Hundred and Fifty Fourth Session of the Maryland Port Commission was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Earl Lewis at the World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Stanton Room, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The Commission met in Open Session from 9:03 am until 9:55 am.

**Present:** Commissioners Dandy, Dean, Huber, Lunn, Richardson and Tilley

**Staff:** Jim White (Executive Director), Dave Thomas (Deputy Director), Bob Munroe (MPA Chief Counsel), Mike Miller (Director of Maritime Commercial Management), Richard Scher (Director of Communications), Kristen Fidler (Director of Harbor Development), Steve Johnson (Director of Engineering), Wonza Spann Nicholas (Director of Finance), Brian Miller (Director of Operations), Jim Dwyer (Director of Planning), John Thornton (Manager of Procurement), Joe Marecki (Marketing) and Chris Nichols (Executive Office)

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

Commissioner Dandy moved to approve the Open and Closed Session Minutes of the Three Hundred and Fifty Third Port Commission meeting, Commissioner Lunn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously without discussion.

**RoRo Commodity Update, Joe Marecki, Marking Division**

Mr. Marecki provided an update on the roro high and heavy equipment that moves through the Port of Baltimore. Highlights of his presentation included:

- The Port of Baltimore continues to be ranked #1 in the nation for handling roro with a market share of 49%.
- WWL is the top carrier for this commodity handling 418,470 tons in 2018.
- Caterpillar is the top Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) with 140,000 tons shipped in 2018.
- Issues/Opportunities
  - Agricultural Update
    - Agricultural exports are down during the first three months of 2019. Tariffs and trade tensions are causing the manufacturers of farm equipment to be cautious for the remainder of 2019.
  - Construction Update
    - Heavy construction equipment has been the main factor regarding import gains across all ports. Key players remain John Deere, Caterpillar, Manitowoc, Oshkosh, Teres, Hyundai, JCB, Doosan and Manitou.
  - Global Mining
    - Continued rebounding in 2018 indicating that 2019 will be the fourth consecutive year of growth. Key countries are Canada, Australia and South America. Key commodities are gold, copper, iron ore and coal.

- Tariff Issues
  - Effects of Increased tariffs – Chinese Imports
    - Direct impact on US OEM's will be increased cost production. Increases with the cost of steel, metal and other machinery components.
  - Effects of Chinese retaliatory tariffs on US Agricultural goods
    - Agricultural exports to China are down significantly. Prices for soy beans and corn are down per bushel, as a result, domestic farm equipment purchasers are afraid to invest in new equipment.

### **Strategic Plan Status Report, Jim Dwyer, Director of Planning**

Mr. Dwyer presented the MPA's Strategic Plan Status and Update. The Plan's Goals and Action Steps were reviewed, and their performance was rated. In summary, all nine Goals remained unchanged, and most of the 72 Action Steps were performing well and were still considered pertinent. However, six Action Steps were amended, two were eliminated and five new Actions were added. The next steps include publishing a new Strategic Plan 2019 and drafting a new MPA Vision 2050.

### **Evergreen Triton, Richard Scher, Director of Communications**

Mr. Scher provided a video presentation on the Evergreen Triton chartered ship that arrived at Seagirt Marine Terminal on May 24, 2019. The Evergreen Triton, with a capacity to handle 14,424 Twenty-foot Equivalent (TEU) containers, was the largest container ship to ever visit Maryland. The supersized ship was able to call the Port of Baltimore because of the Port's infrastructure that allows it to handle some of the largest ships in the world.

### **Contracts for Approval**

Mr. Thornton requested approval for the following contract:

1. Contract #518815A and B – Construction Management and Inspection Services; O'Connell & Lawrence, Inc., Olney, MD; and iCivil, Inc., Woodstock, MD; \$3.5 million each.

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

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dean and seconded by Commissioner Huber. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.