

**PORT OF OSWEGO AUTHORITY**  
**Regular Monthly Board Meeting**  
**Monday, November 17, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Enwright called the meeting to order at approximately 4:42 PM.

**PRESENT:** Francis Enwright - Chairperson, Constance Cosemento - Vice Chairperson, Kathleen Macey, James Metcalf, Jennifer LaPietra, and Thomas Schneider - Interim Executive Director.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Pat McMahon - Supervisor of Development & Maintenance, Debbie Godden - Accounting Manager, Dr. John Kares Smith - former Board Member.

**ABSENT:** Diane Zeller.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 11-17-2503:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Cosemento to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting at 4:45 PM. Motion was seconded by Ms. Macey. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONAL REPORT**

Mr. Schneider, Interim Executive Director, presented the Administrative Operational Report to the Board at 4:45 PM.

**Report Topics:**

Monthly operations update – October 2025

Update on projects:

- The Port's three (3) current commodities that are transloaded and warehoused:
  - ✓ **aluminum**
  - ✓ **grain**
  - ✓ **potash**
- Tonnage Report – October was slower month in terms of cargo movement, and that had to do with how the local aluminum plant was going to respond to their closure.
- Aluminum – seeing the ongoing trend of domestic aluminum that is prime aluminum (smaller ingots) being moved out by the owners, which are primarily commodity brokers to a number of different locations. That has helped support the local aluminum plant by taking larger recycled ingots from their location and moving them to the Port. The Port is in daily communications with the local plant, and the Port wants to assist them to stage their start-up; in order to do that, they need to clear their field out of some aluminum that is not going to be used in the beginning of the start-up of operations. Prime aluminum is being transported out. What has happened relative to this supply of domestic prime aluminum which is subject to most of it both we received comes from Canada and we have received very little from Canada by vessel. It has to do with the industry waiting to see what would happen with tariffs and the reluctance to move aluminum over at the higher tariff rates. The consumption of that aluminum is going to get to the point where there's going to have to be a resupply and that will have to come through by vessel. Right now, the configuration of what the Port has is the consumption of what is still considered domestic prime aluminum that has not been

subject to tariff. The only thing that is on the Port's field that is subject to tariff is the sows in front of the silo, and it is being transported out and consumed at other locations and will have to be replenished at some point. In the interim, it has helped clear out the yard so that the Port can accept the local aluminum plants their large recycled ingots (that are 15-17 metric tons), and be able to have the room to store them by size, by alloy in order to return them to the plant when they are operational.

- Agriculture – soybeans are being loaded into the silo from area farmers. The soybean season and harvest have been unimpressive.
- Potash – continues; goes out in very small supplies and will eventually be filled by cargo.
- Dome 4 – primarily being used for the storage of boats from the marinas.
- Marinas – both marinas are closed.
- USGS at 17 Lake Street (Fish & Wildlife) – still working through the succeeding lease with the General Services Administration (GSA).
- Break Wall Project – completed by a sub-contractor to the US Army Corps of Engineers, is technically completed for the season; sub-contractors thought they could complete work into November but that has not worked out due to the roughness of the water.
- Grants – the Port has several different grants in different states of readiness:
  - ✓ Warehouse Modernization Grant – came from the Port Improvement Development Project (PIDP) grant – on a phone call with the Maritime Administration who is overseeing this grant; working through the environmental portion of the process as well as the Section 106 tribal communications and the Title 6 policies and procedures associated with this federal grant.
  - ✓ Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant – federal grant that goes along with the state's Passenger and Freight Rail Assistance Program (PFRAP) grant (issued by DOT) – still waiting to do core drillings on that. This grant will combine rail spurs at the Fitzgibbons site and a conveyor system for grain to load onto ships.
  - ✓ Electric Railcar Mover – Mr. McMahon will update on this; he visited Baltimore, MD on this.
  - ✓ FEMA Project/Grant – Debbie Godden explained that this FEMA project included the east dock and the west pier; they were considered the same project as far as FEMA was concerned. That was \$6.1 million in projects. The projects have been closed out; everything has been submitted to them. It went through New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHES), and they forward it on to FEMA. FEMA has reviewed it and closed it on their side. Now it is kicked back to DHES, and the Port is waiting for the funds to be sent out to us. These projects are all reimbursement-based, meaning the Port pays out the contractors and the Port submits it for reimbursement. Additionally, the NYS DOT grant the Port had for the Agricultural Center (which built the silo and Dome 4), final payment request has been submitted.
- Highway H2O Conference – attending November 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> in Toronto, Canada with Pat McMahon.

## **OPERATIONAL REPORT**

Mr. Patrick McMahon, Supervisor of Development & Maintenance, detailed the following:

- Update on Operations
  - Electric Trackmobile – will be in Syracuse in December, possibly seeing it at the Port in February. Currently the Port has a Hercules Trackmobile, which can move 5 railcars at a time. The Port was able to secure funding for an electric railcar mover that is able to handle 9-12 railcars through the Port, which will assist in moving railcars and loading and unloading product.
  - H. Lee White Maritime Museum – invitation and attended the Volunteer Appreciation Reception, to thank the Port for the services provided.

## **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ON TOPICS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONAL REPORT**

Ms. LaPietra asked about an update on the Customs and Boarder protection lease. Mr. Schneider stated that there was no change; a lease was put forward by CBP that the Port's legal counsel has reviewed. A conference call will be scheduled. For review purposes, Customs and Border Patrol has requested to install a movable surveillance tower. They were shown an area at the Fitzgibbons property west or northwest of the railroad tracks. Customs has come back with a lease proposal. The purpose of the tower seven nautical mile view across the lake.

Mr. Metcalf inquired about the movement of aluminum and it being less profitable for the Port versus vessels coming into the Port. Mr. Schneider explained that when vessels come in, there are higher labor rates, dockage, wharfage, the vessel is there for a longer period of time, it is a higher margin business because there are only certain number of places a vessel can dock. The more traffic the Port does by vessel, the more profitable it is as opposed to items coming in by rail.

Mrs. Cosemento inquired if any shipment of aluminum that may resume from Canada is weather-dependent; no notification of the seaway closure at this time, however, spoke to a broker recently and they were possibly going to be bringing in product next month in December into the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ). Mrs. Cosemento asked if anything was in the FTZ; the only items that have been in the FTZ is Customs have been using the Port as a staging area to inspect travel loads that they have randomly chosen or chosen based upon paperwork and redirected here, so the loads can be unloaded, inspected by Customs, then reloaded and then shipped out. There have been five trucks in within the last month; 4 are currently at the Port. Mr. Metcalf inquired about who unloads the materials in the FTZ and who pays that freight. Mr. Schneider explained that the ILA unloads the freight and the broker who then passes it forward to Customs.

Mr. Schneider reviewed the difference between an FTZ and bonded warehouse per Ms. LaPietra's request. What the Port has is a FTZ, where the tariff rate or tax is established at the time it enters and whenever it leaves at the entry rate. With a bonded warehouse, cargo that comes in is placed in the bonded warehouse and is tariffed or taxed at the rate effect at that time it leaves. Ms. Lapietra reviewed the issue with creating a bonded warehouse at the Port; the Port is in a FTZ and we would have to do it outside the FTZ; inquired where the closest place would be for that. Mr. Schneider explained that it could be done by doing a boundary modification of the FTZ and then the establishment of the bonded warehouse, however the demand for this has not held.

When CSX enters Port property, which is East 10-1/2 Street where the tracks move over, CSX leaves the railcars there, but the Port takes care of the railcar movement anywhere inside the facility. Right now that is being done with a diesel-powered trackmobile; a grant was previously approved to acquire an electric trackmobile that is still being built in Europe, then shipped to Baltimore, and finally shipped



to Syracuse. This is from a Passenger Freight and Rail Assistance Program (PFRAP) grant from the state of New York Department of Transportation. It will be charged at the Port's charging station.

Mr. Enwright asked Pat McMahon about the west-side marina winterization. Mr. McMahon has inquired about bubblers for the west-side marina to prevent ice building and causing damage.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE FINANCIAL REPORTS**

#### **Motion 11-17-2504:**

A motion was made by Ms. Macey to accept October's financial reports as presented at 5:11 PM. Motion seconded by Mr. Metcalf. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.

#### **Primary Financial Reports**

- Cash Position
- Balance Sheet
- Profit & Loss Statement
- Marina Profit & Loss Statement

#### **Subsidiary Financial Reports**

- Monthly Bills
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Grants Receivable Summary
- Loan Summary
- Schedule of Assets
- Sales Report

Mr. Schneider and Mrs. Godden were available to answer any questions regarding the financials that Board members may have. Mr. Schneider explained that the lower volume that has been seen this year and the strain that it places on cash flow. It is the expectation that November will be a much stronger month due to increase in activity for the local aluminum plant.

Ms. Lapietra asked about high expenses during the last month; Mrs. Godden stated that the month of October had three pay periods so that would increase the expenses for the month.

**Chairman's Report:** No report.

Mr. Enwright presented a plaque to past Port of Oswego Authority Board Member, Dr. John Kares Smith, for his 15 years of civic duty.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee:** No meeting, no report per Mrs. Cosemento. Mrs. Cosemento shared that she made contact with Dr. Kares Smith by telephone.

**Audit and Finance Committee:** No meeting, no report.

**Governance Committee:** No meeting, no report.

**Planning and Development Committee:** No meeting, no report per Ms. Macey.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion on Board Meeting schedule.

Mr. Schneider stated that Mr. Metcalf approached him explaining that he has a conflict with another organization that he volunteers his time and effort for that also meets on the third Monday of the month. Board members discussed setting up a meeting schedule for the next calendar year, that included moving monthly meetings to the second Mondays of each month. The next Board meeting will be on Monday, December 8, 2025.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **Motion 11-17-2501:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Cosemento to move to Executive Session for discussion on governance continuance at 5:17 PM. Motion seconded by Ms. Macey. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.


### **Motion 11-17-2502:**


A motion was made by Mrs. Cosemento to resume the regular monthly meeting at 6:24 PM. Motion seconded by Ms. LaPietra. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Motion 11-17-2505:**

A motion was made by Mr. Metcalf to adjourn the regular monthly meeting at 6:25PM. Motion seconded by Ms. LaPietra. Motion passed. 5-Aye, 0-Nay.

  
Kathleen Macey, Secretary/Treasurer

  
Francis Enwright, Chairperson