

Port names new executive director

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The Virginia Port Authority Board of Commissioners Thursday morning named John Reinhart, the CEO of Maersk Line Ltd., as the Port of Virginia's new executive director and CEO.

Reinhart is planning to retire from Maersk at the end of January. He was named to the port post a year to the day that Jerry Bridges, who headed the port since 2007, stepped down. He will start the job in February.



The board unanimously voted to name Reinhart to the post. He joined the board in the main conference room of the Virginia Port Authority in the World Trade Center in downtown Norfolk

He called the his new job "the next chapter of life" and said that he would work to make the port more efficient and cost-effective to position it for growth.

"The raw ingredients are here," he said. "It's just a matter of bringing them together."

The terms of of his contract, including his salary, have not yet been disclosed.

Reinhart steps into the position just as the Port of Virginia has had a record-breaking year.

The board hired the firm of Boyden Global Executive Search of Baltimore to conduct the search for a new port leader. It is paying the firm \$138,000.

The port has seen major changes during the past couple of years, beginning in 2011, when Gov. Bob McDonnell replaced 10 of 11 Virginia Port Authority board members. The board also considered privatizing the port, but ultimately decided to keep Virginia International Terminals as its operator. The new CEO will oversee not just the port authority, but VIT, the limited liability company that manages the Port of Virginia. Until earlier this year, VIT operated as a separate entity.

A recent report from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission expressed concern about stability at the port. In response to a question about the report, Reinhart said that "being present, visible and listening" are key for his position.

"Saying 'trust me' won't get you anywhere," he said. It's how you walk the walk, he said, and talk the talk.

Rodney Oliver, who was the authority's deputy executive director of administration and chief financial officer, has been the authority's interim executive director since Bridges left the post in October 2012.

In January, Joe Dorto, the CEO of VIT, announced he was retiring. In May, J.J. "Jeff" Keever, who was the VPA's deputy executive director for external affairs, left the post.