

**Minutes of the Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Commissioners  
Of the  
Fishers Island Ferry District**

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District was held in the Fishers Island Community Center on **Tuesday, October 20, 2009** at 5:00 PM.

Present were Commissioners: Brooks, Burnham, duPont and Edwards.  
5 members of the community attended.

Minutes of the previous meeting of October 6, 2009 and a Work Session held on October 8, 2009 were distributed to the Board. After a brief discussion, the new minutes of both meetings were submitted and approved.

Moved by Commissioner Burnham;

Seconded by Commissioner duPont.

Ayes all.

A listing of the outstanding obligations of the District was distributed to the Board for audit and discussion. At the conclusion of the discussion, a resolution to pay the outstanding obligations of: **\$34,228.48** as represented by vouchers **#410 through #436**, dated October 20, 2009 was;

Moved by Commissioner duPont,

Seconded by Commissioner Edwards;

Vote of the Board of Commissioners:

Ayes: Commissioners: Brooks, Burnham, duPont and Edwards.

Nays: None

**Public Comment Session**

A member of the audience asked about the B&W discount and was told that a full discussion would take place under that line item on the agenda.

**Correspondence**

1. No correspondence on file.

## **Old Business**

1. Deb Shillo of the Ad Hoc Committee distributed the latest projections from the Committee. A year end deficit of almost \$287,000 is still being projected. The Board is concerned about paying bills and payroll at the end of the year and is proposing to raise taxes in the 2010 budget to help offset the shortfall. A Public Hearing will be scheduled. The District Manager, stating that the Committee's revenue projections were much too low and that the payroll projections were much too high, distributed his projections which showed a break even budget at the end of the year. The Ad Hoc committee will review these figures. Captain Easter sent a report detailing working hours of his crew, including the staging personnel. He strongly suggested that the Board meet with the crew and spend some time discussing current work related issues. The Board agreed.
2. A Public Hearing for the purpose of raising the budgeted tax levy in the upcoming 2010 budget has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2009, 5:00 PM, to be held at the Community Center. Notice will be posted in the Town newspaper.
3. An updated lease and rental list was distributed. The Commissioners would still like to visit all of the rental sites. They have scheduled for Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30 AM at the District offices. It was also suggested that it is time to rewrite all of the leases for the upcoming lease period to begin on January 1, 2010. The new leases should possible be "site specific" instead of just a generic lease for all. A copy of the lease would be sent to the Ad Hoc Committee for review.
4. The new ramp fees, set at a special meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>, for the upcoming B&W paving project were discussed. Some community members associated with the project feel that the fees are much too high and should not have been raised after the project was awarded. After much discussion, the Board, in a unanimous community minded decision, voted to lower the rates to \$500.00 for 10/20/09 through 3/14/2010 and \$450.00 for 3/15/2010 through 6/15/2010. Rates after 6/15/2010 will remain at \$750.00. The new motion is a part of these minutes and will be posted immediately on the website.
5. The 6/15/09 freight tariff was distributed to the Board. The new freight system will be implemented during the upcoming months and now is the time to review the freight pricing and raise rates as needed. The Ad Hoc committee will review the tariff rates and send their suggestions to the Board.

## **New Business**

1. Ferry District House Accounts were discussed. These accounts have always been questionable. They were established to simplify the billing for large traffic accounts, however, as a tax district; the Ferry District probably should not be extending credit. In addition, by eliminating the house accounts, all future traffic would be prepaid, helping a sometimes ailing cash flow problem. The Board approved stopping the House Accounts as of November 30, 2009. Customers will be notified immediately that purchases must be made with cash, check or credit card. A meeting will be held with the terminal agents to prepare for the change.

2. Commissioner Burnham has been asked to represent the Ferry on an FI Habitat Committee. In an attempt to avoid any future conflict, he has asked to be replaced. Commissioner Edwards was asked to serve and he accepted the position.
3. The Board set a meeting with the crew for Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> in the New London Terminal for 1:30 PM. Attorney Egan will be contacted as to the requirements for holding an “in house” meeting, since the Board would like to meet with the crew without distraction. The meeting will be posted, if necessary.

**Public Comment**

1. Are the ramp fees per truck or per trip?
  - a. The ramp fees or “touch fees” are per ferry trip.
2. Southold is trying to balance its budget and is offering Early Retirement packages. Would the Board entertain the same?
  - a. The Board would look at all aspects of saving money.
3. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Brooks to appoint Chris Rafferty to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Lillie Ahman. Not having the unanimous Board approval to discuss this issue, the Motion was dropped.

Next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, in the Fishers Island Community Center at **4:30 PM**.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Thomas F. Doherty  
Manager/Secretary  
Fishers Island Ferry District

