

**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 called to order on **Tuesday, January 10, 2012** at 4:35 pm by Commissioner Brooks at the Community Center.

Present were Commissioners: Brooks, Burnham and Rafferty. Commissioner Edwards joined the meeting at 5:03 pm.

Commissioner Herrick was present via video-teleconference.

Present were Randy A. Wyrofsky, Interim CEO/Manager and Nina Schmid, Assistant Manager.

Fourteen members of the public were present.

Commissioner Brooks opened the meeting and declared a quorum present. He instructed those present to hold their comment until the end of the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on October 24, 2011 were approved.

Moved by Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by Commissioner Rafferty

Ayes: all

Nays: none

Minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 2011 were approved.

Moved by Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by Commissioner Rafferty

Ayes: all

Nays: none

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on December 19, 2011 were approved.

Moved by Commissioner Rafferty

Seconded by Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: all

Nays: none

Minutes of the meeting held on December 20, 2011 were approved with the following change: removal of the word "letter" from the following sentence 'Mr. Barrett's retirement letter was accepted.' in the Correspondence "a" section.

Moved by Commissioner Rafferty

Seconded by Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: all

Nays: none

A list of outstanding obligations of the District were reviewed and discussed. A resolution was made to pay the outstanding obligation of: **\$84,466.57** as represented in vouchers **#1986 through #2039** dated January 17, 2012 by:

Moved by Commissioner Herrick

Seconded by Commissioner Burnham

Ayes: all

Nays: none

Ms. Schmid informed the Board that the payment to Advantech Consulting for \$3,345.00 was removed from the warrants as reflected in the aforementioned \$84,466.57. Commissioner Brooks questioned the amount paid to Kalamian's Inc. – Mr. Wyrofsky responded that it was the cost value of replacing Leslie Tombari's rug. Commissioner Brooks stated that oil prices had gone down also.

Correspondence

- a. Year-Round Resident Cards - The Commissioners reviewed requests for year-round resident cards from Isabelle and Jonathan Farrar. Commissioner Brooks verified the date of residency as December 28, 2011 as supplied on the application. Mrs. Farrar stated that she and her husband had actually resided on Fishers Island most of their time since May 2011 with several exceptions – she spent six (6) weeks in Europe and eight (8) weeks in Australia. Commissioner Rafferty inquired as to Mr. Farrar's current location – Mrs. Farrar replied that he is working in Florida until the end of January. Mr. and Mrs. Farrar's requests were approved.
- b. Eric Giles addressed the Board about his residency card which had already been approved to be effective on January 22, 2012. He asked how to obtain a card – Ms. Schmid asked if the Ferry District could give Mr. Giles a letter in lieu of a card until a date was set to distribute new resident cards. The Board requested that Mr. Wyrofsky supply Mr. Giles and Mr. and Mrs. Farrar with letters stating their residency on Fishers Island.
- c. Alex Williams Proposal - Alex Williams addressed the Board about his interest in renting space in the Annex for the purpose of running a brewery. He requested what the rent would be – Commissioner Brooks instructed Mr. Williams to contact Mr. Wyrofsky about the rent as it is predetermined based on square footage and type of property. Commissioner Brooks informed Mr. Williams that the space in which he is interested does not have water, heat or sewage and that he needs to find out about the legalities of locating a brewery so close to the school. Commissioner Rafferty expressed a concern about fumes and odors – Mr. Williams stated that the only need for venting is for moisture. Commissioner Brooks told Mr. Williams that all properties are rented "as is" and that if he needed water, he would have to make arrangements at his own expense. Commissioner Herrick requested that Mr. Williams work out the logistics with Mr. Wyrofsky's assistance and present it to the Board.
- d. Nina Schmid Retirement Letter – Commissioner Brooks read Ms. Schmid's retirement letter and then thanked her for all of her years of service. Mr. Wyrofsky will verify the requested sick leave and vacation time. Ms. Schmid's retirement was accepted with an effective date of January 20, 2012.

Moved by Commissioner Rafferty

Seconded by Commissioner Herrick

Ayes: all

Nays: none

- e. Leslie Tombari Resignation Letter – The Board read Leslie Tombari’s resignation letter and accepted her resignation effective February 1, 2012.
Moved by Commissioner Burnham
Seconded by Commissioner Rafferty
Ayes: all
Nays: none
- f. Year-Round Resident Card – The Commissioners reviewed a request from Ryan Rodd for a year-round resident card. Mr. Rodd informed the Board that he worked for the Big Club this past summer and is currently employed by BD Remodeling. Mr. Rodd’s request was approved and he was instructed to obtain a letter from Mr. Wyrofsky stating his residency.
- g. Change in 457B Plan Administrator – Mr. Wyrofsky requested that this be tabled as he is still in the process of obtaining more information.
- h. Beth Stern Round Trip Ticket Request – Ms. Stern submitted a request for a free round-trip ferry ticket so that she could take food which was collected for the New London Homeless Shelter. Commissioner Rafferty asked if there was any policy in place for such a request. He wants to treat all fairly but is concerned as this supports an off-island charity, but he is willing to write a check himself or create a policy. Commissioner Burnham stated that there is no current policy and that requests of this nature had in the past been reviewed on a case by case situation. Commissioner Burnham asked if this is a one-time request or if it would happen more than once. Commissioner Herrick said that it is difficult to determine what cause is worthy and that she does not believe that it is good use of the Board’s time to make such a decision. Commissioner Burnham stated that he would split the cost with Commissioner Rafferty by writing a check to the New London Homeless Shelter who could then reimburse Ms. Stern for her expenses. Commissioner Rafferty agreed.

Old Business

- a. Debra Silva –P/T Call in Clerk – Ms. Schmid explained the need for a resolution changing Ms. Silva’s status from part-time clerk to part-time call-in clerk and hiring Melissa Cochrane as part-time clerk. The Board approved the resolution.
Moved by Commissioner Herrick
Seconded by Commissioner Rafferty
Ayes: all
Nays: none
- b. North ramp Repair Bid Award – Mr. Wyrofsky explained that bids had been solicited twice: 1 – one bid was received on the due date of December 15, 2011 and 2 – three bids were received for the re-bid with a due date of January 4, 2012 from Blakesly, Mohawk and Chesterfield. Mr. Wyrofsky stated that Chesterfield had submitted the lowest bid price - \$399,852.00 but that this was significantly higher than what had been budgeted for the project. All three contractors bid a complete rebuild of the ramp and that the mobilization and remobilization portions of the bids were the largest expense. Mr. Wyrofsky suggested that the Board should not accept any bid at this time. Commissioner Rafferty verified that three options had been put out to bid and stated that Charles Brown had informed him a year ago that the

market for marine services was soft so the Ferry District may get a better price – why such a high price. Mr. Wyrofsky responded that he did not know but that all three contractors felt that the ramp needed to be rebuilt. Commissioner Brooks stated that there was originally \$700,000.00 allotted for this option so the bid prices were really not that high. Mr. Wyrofsky requested more time to research the topic so it was tabled.

- c. Permanent CEO / Manager Search Process – Commissioner Brooks updated those present that quite a few resumes had been received as a result of the ad, that the HR firm was reviewing them and that interviews are being set up with the most qualified applicants.
- d. Uniforms – tabled
- e. Commissioner Brooks asked Mr. Wyrofsky if he would need additional employees. Mr. Wyrofsky responded that he may restructure some jobs to help mainstream operations.

Public Comment

Harold Cook addressed the Board. He informed the Board that Tom Doherty used to give Mrs. Cook ferry tickets since she is unable to go up the stairs on the ferry and must take her car so that she has somewhere to ride on the boat as there is no handicap access. Mr. Cook asked if the Ferry District would continue this practice. Commissioner Rafferty stated that the Ferry District cannot give out free tickets and suggested that the Board reconvene in three days to develop a policy about handicap access on the ferry boats. Commissioner Brooks instructed Mr. Cook to discuss the matter with Mr. Wyrofsky to come up with a solution. Sara McLean stated that she had been asked a similar question several times at the Doctor's Office. Commissioner Brooks said that the Board will meet again to address the issue.

Deb Shillo asked if there is any grant money available for the North Ramp repairs. Commissioner Burnham said that it would not be possible to get any grant money by June. Mrs. Shillo asked if there are not grants available which would fund projects that are already completed. Mr. Wyrofsky stated that he is currently working on a grant for updating the ferry terminal. Commissioner Brooks thinks that this is a good idea but said that grant funds are tight right now. Mr. Wyrofsky suggested completing the improvement with District funds and look for grants that would provide reimbursement.

Ms. Schmid requested permission for persons attending Rosemary and Art Baue's memorial service permission to park in the New London terminal parking lot on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Commissioner Burnham had no problem with the request. Commissioner Edwards said that it was acceptable to him as long as the cars did not interfere with ferry functions. Sara McLean stated that she believed anyone who wished to park in the New London terminal parking lot must get permission from Mark Easter. Mrs. McLean questioned who would give permission now that Mr. Easter is retiring. Commissioner Brooks stated that the policy is that a person may park for medical or handicap reasons, but that individuals can ask the purser for permission. Mrs. McLean said that she had scheduled trainers to come to the Doctor's Office from L&M Hospital but they missed the ferry when they were told that they could not park in the New London terminal parking lot. Commissioner Edwards suggested that Mrs. McLean call the ferry office in advance to arrange for parking next time. Mrs. Shillo stated that people generally ask at the purser who in turn ask the captain on duty and that they are generally allowed to park except for commercial reasons. Commissioner Brooks said that there is not a

ticket person in the parking garage on the weekends so there is no charge. Chippy DuPont said that Ibbey Sawyer recently asked permission to park in the New London terminal lot because she was coming off the last boat and did not want to have to walk to the parking garage in the dark – she was given permission. Ms. Schmid told Mrs. McLean that requests need to go through either the New London or Fishers Island office. Commissioner Burnham said that the policy is strict and limited. Commissioner Rafferty suggested that Mrs. McLean look on-line as the policy is stated there.

Harold Cook asked if the Ferry District would pass along savings to renters since they would be saving on salaries with all of the impending retirements and resignations. Mr. Wyrofsky replied no.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 5:35 pm to discuss personnel and legal matters.

The Board returned to regular session at 7:10 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 4:30 pm at the Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.