

**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 **Thursday, January 19, 2012** at 2:35 pm by Commissioner Brooks at the Community Center.

Present were Commissioners: Brooks, Burnham, Edwards and Rafferty.

Commissioner Herrick was present via video-teleconference.

Present was Randy A. Wyrofsky, Interim CEO/Manager.

Four members of the public were present.

Commissioner Brooks opened the meeting and declared a quorum present. He informed those present that the Board will try to schedule weekly meetings to work on filling vacant positions. Commissioner Brooks asked Randy Wyrofsky to bring the Board up to date on the status of bills which need to be paid. Mr. Wyrofsky informed the Board that he is collecting bills to be paid but that the process may take a little longer. He stated that payroll is automatic but there may be a need to add the approval of warrants at the upcoming weekly meetings. Mr. Wyrofsky stated that the upcoming payroll which will be due in two weeks would be done by either himself or the interim Assistant Manager and by Steve Burke in New London. Commissioner Brooks inquired whether Mark Easter had supplied Mr. Wyrofsky with a list of his jobs and responsibilities before he left – Mr. Wyrofsky responded yes. Commissioner Brooks asked if Ms. Schmid had done the same – Mr. Wyrofsky responded that she is in the process. Commissioner Brooks wishes Ms. Schmid all the best in the future and thanked her for her time at the Ferry District.

Mr. Wyrofsky distributed a chart showing the structure of jobs in the Ferry District as supplied by Nick Daukas. Mr. Wyrofsky stated that he does not agree with the requirement for the new CEO to have maritime experience since he sees the more important need being extensive experience with business – he sees the person in charge on the mainland as having sufficient maritime experience. Commissioner Brooks informed those present that three (3) interviews had been conducted. He said that it is difficult to find someone with marine operations experience as well as business experience. Commissioner Brooks has asked Commissioner Rafferty to send out more e-mails to assist Mr. Daukas in his search. The Board will continue this discussion in Executive Session since it is necessary to discuss individual persons by name.

Commissioner Brooks stated that he had spoken with Keith Nielson of Docko about the North ramp repair bids - three (3) bids were received (one from Massachusetts and two from Long Island) and that the bids were higher than expected because the companies which normally bid on such projects lack the size crane needed to deal with the pilings and weight system for the new ramp. Mr. Nielson had suggested that the bid be broken down so that a company with the necessary crane could bid on just that portion of the job needing such equipment and that other companies could bid on the remainder of the job – hopefully rendering lower total bid prices. Commissioner Edwards asked why this had not been suggested before. Commissioner Brooks responded that he did not believe Mr. Nielson had expected this problem. Mr. Wyrofsky explained that a large portion of the cost is for mobilization and demobilization. Commissioner Edwards asked why the engineer who designed the ramp did not know that such a large crane would be necessary. Commissioner Rafferty agreed with Commissioner Edwards.

Commissioner Edwards asked if the Ferry District would now have to pay again for the bid to be broken down and redone. Commissioner Brooks explained Mr. Nielson has some ideas about how to save costs and that the project simply has to be done. Commissioner Brooks continued that since so many companies which do this type of work are still busy with repairs from Hurricane Irene and the Nor'easter storms, the Ferry District received higher than expected bids. Commissioner Rafferty requested that Mr. Nielson attend the next meeting to explain. Commissioner Edwards would like Mr. Nielson to attend the meeting on his own time. Commissioner Rafferty asked if this bulkhead is really only a five (5) year bulkhead or is it a ten (10) to thirteen (13) year bulkhead – Commissioner Rafferty has been reluctant to spend so much money now if the bulkhead would last a while longer. Commissioner Brooks responded that Mr. Nielson had informed the Board that there is anywhere from two (2) to five (5) years of life remaining and that the original steel used in the bulkhead was 3/8" thick whereas the new ramp in New London has one (1) inch thick steel. Commissioner Rafferty stated that if there really is only two (2) years left on the bulkhead, he suggests taking the \$350,000.00 bid and adding it to the bond anticipation notes that the Ferry District already has. Commissioner Brooks reminded Commissioner Rafferty that the \$350,000.00 is only to secure the bulkhead and that the bulkhead will still eventually need to be replaced. Commissioner Brooks requested that Mr. Wyrofsky have Mr. Nielson attend the next meeting for discussion. Commissioner Brooks continued that if only the small project is going to be done that it should be completed before the season begins, but that if the Board approves the extensive renovation with replacement of the bulkhead the project would have to wait until the fall to begin. He stated that according to Mr. Nielson, the South Ramp will handle anything and that the North ramp will handle anything as long as there is no mean low tide. Commissioner Herrick stated that the contractors are probably already booked for the coming season. Commissioner Brooks agreed, but said that the Board needs someone to give them a correct estimate. He said that he had asked Mr. Nielson if it had cost the Ferry District any extra money in waiting a year – Mr. Nielson had replied no. Commissioner Burnham asked if such a large crane was needed originally – Commissioner Brooks responded yes, since the weights needed to be replaced as the ramp is continuing to weaken. Mr. Wyrofsky informed the Board that the grant which was applied for two (2) years ago for renovating the waterfront has been resubmitted by Jennifer Messiano, a grant writer who had procured a grant for the Fire District. Ms. Messiano was meeting with a representative from the Department of Transportation on a different matter but was going to ask about the getting the Ferry District some money for the ramp renovation project. Mr. Wyrofsky continued that since the Ferry District has a need, there may be money available for this project. Commissioner Brooks verified that the grants to which Mr. Wyrofsky refers are separate from the Town of Southold – Mr. Wyrofsky stated that these grants are from the State of New York for marine operations.

Commissioner Brooks stated that Rick Barrett is retiring at the end of the month and asked Mr. Wyrofsky about the pay which Mr. Barrett received for his unused vacation days. Mr. Wyrofsky explained that there are two (2) general practices for paying employees for vacation days: 1 – the employee must work a full year and becomes vested on January 1st of the following year, and 2 – the employee earns vacation time throughout the year (pay as you go). Mr. Wyrofsky cannot locate a policy for vested vacation days. Mr. Wyrofsky continued that Mr. Barrett had approached him to ask what the delay was about his vacation time. Commissioner Brooks stated that the Ferry District will pay the three (3) retiring employees their vacation pay – Mr. Wyrofsky agreed. Commissioner Edwards suggested that the Board adopt a policy which would be used in the future. Commissioner Brooks agreed with Commissioner Edwards that the Board should create a policy and stated that Rick Barrett, Mark Easter and Nina Schmid had served the Ferry District well and deserved to be paid their

vacation time. Mr. Wyrofsky informed the Board that the current employee manual does not address this issue but that in his past experience, a company generally saves money with the pay as you go policy. Commissioner Herrick suggested that someone create a policy and present it at the next meeting.

Mr. Wyrofsky informed the Board that there are representatives from the Town of Southold on the Island and that he and Louisa Evans had toured the State Police Barracks to determine what repairs are needed to make the property inhabitable. The representatives from the Town suggested that they come for five (5) or six (6) and do the work themselves instead of hire a separate contractor. Commissioner Edwards asked if the Town had appropriated money in their budget for the repairs – Mr. Wyrofsky replied no. Commissioner Brooks stated that he had been reassured by one of the men from the Town that the repairs would be completed. Commissioner Herrick praised Mr. Wyrofsky for handling this.

Public Comment

Constance White addressed the Board about whether she can keep her year-round resident status. She explained that it is necessary for her recovery to attend rehab which requires her to stay in town rather than live in her house on Fishers Island. Mr. Wyrofsky explained that there has been a delay in issuing new cards since the new cards may have a swipe bar on them. Commissioner Brooks said that it was good to see Mrs. White back again.

Reverend Pam Vollinger stated that she prays for the leaders of the community every Sunday.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 3:05 pm to discuss personnel and legal matters.

The Board returned to regular session at 4:40 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm.