

Fishers Island Ferry District

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
August 17, 2014

A Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") was called to order on August 17, 2014 at 5:30 PM by Commissioner Edwards at the Fishers Island Community Center.

Present were Commissioners Edwards, Parker and Rugg. Present were Asst. Managers Murphy and Burns. There were nine members of the public present.

Commissioner Edwards opened the meeting and declared a quorum present. Everyone in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

Commissioner Edwards welcomed the two new commissioners, Andrew "Ace" Ahrens and Harry Parker and thanked them for joining.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. S. Sinclair asked why the ferries were so late this year and he listed several recent observations. Commissioner Edwards and Mr. Burns responded to Mr. Sinclair's comments and noted that the ferries have been late for many different reasons and that management and the Board are aware of this and are working to reduce the occurrences.

**WARRANTS:**

A list of outstanding obligations of the Ferry District was received and discussed. All invoices were declared to abide by Procurement Policy. Following a discussion, a resolution was made to pay the outstanding obligation totaling \$ 297,808.61.

MOVED by: Commissioner Rugg  
SECONDED by: Commissioner Parker  
AYES: All  
NAYES: None

**Budget Modification:**

RESOLVED that the Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amend the 2014 Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Decrease Appropriations

SM.1910.4.000.300	Worker's Comp Insurance	\$ 5,400
	Total	\$ 5,400

Increase Appropriations

SM.1910.4.000.200	Airport Insurance	\$300
SM.1910.4.000.100	Ferry Insurance	\$5,100
	Total	\$5,400

MOVED by Commissioner Rugg  
SECONDED by Commissioner Parker  
Ayes: All  
Nays: None  
Page 1 of 3

## Fishers Island Ferry District

### **Fall & Winter Ferry Schedule**

Mr. Murphy requested that the board remove the Monday 4:30/5:30 AM ferry from the fall schedule that starts September 8<sup>th</sup>. Reviewing the last several years' data it was noted that this trip is not widely used and that if necessary the 9:15 could be added without effecting crew scheduling and the normal schedule.

Following a discussion, a resolution was made to remove the Monday 4:30/5:30 AM ferry from the fall schedule.

MOVED by: Commissioner Rugg  
SECONDED by: Commissioner Parker  
AYES: All  
NAYES: None

### **Budget hearing:**

Commissioner Rugg made a motion to waive the reading of the budget notice and to open the 2015 budget hearing.

MOVED by: Commissioner Rugg  
SECONDED by: Commissioner Parker  
AYES: All  
NAYES: None

Commissioner Rugg presented the draft 2015 (copy attached herewith) budget. The first slide outlined expected capital expenditures ("CapEx") which have been defined as non-operating expenses and expenses with a longer term nature. CapEx expenses will be mapped to the operating budget after the review and approval process. Notable items include \$100,000 for naval engineering & architectural services for repowering the Race Point and developing a plan to extend the life or replace the vessels. Additionally \$200,000 was reserved for yard period and/or other deposits.

The operating revenue highlights were 2% increases in property taxes and freight transport. Freight increases were based on expected volume increases. \$337,000 was a 90% reimbursement from FEMA for the airport light expenses. It was also noted that almost all property rental income would be recycled back into the property assets managed by the Ferry District. It was expected that the Fund Balance would increase this year due to 2014 holdovers (unused appropriations) and unbudgeted increase ferry traffic. Even with this the District will have to borrow and use it's Fund Balance (retained earnings).

Noted operating expense highlights were the Race Point going into the yards this year which will allow for a reduce in fuel (quantity) being consumed. FEMA expenses for airport lighting are \$360,000. Other anticipated grant awards would be for FI terminal improvements with a 20% cost to the District. \$50,000 has been budgeted for work on the South Ramp on Fishers. Between short and long-term debt the District is budgeting to pay down \$225,000 in principal.

The public commented on many aspects of the budget (and operations) through out the presentation which was responded to by both members of the commission and management. Questions ranged from: why the District did not budget its balance sheet *(except for fund balance the District has little control. The audited financials and management report located on*  
Page 2 of 3

## Fishers Island Ferry District

*the website provide a good review of the District's assets and liabilities including debt. The District will do better next year presenting Fund Balance and debt), Why isn't 357 Whistler Ave (Nina's old residence) not rented? (Working with school and town to do this economically), how can the District managed its property assets better and with an eye to the future? (A property review was completed four years ago and new three year lease will be developed and deployed this fall. The District was saddled with some depleted resources and over a period will bring them and rents up to a more realistic level. The District tries to manage the needs and it its limited resources to serve the community and it can do better.), why are the airport's landing fees so low when it costs \$12.50 to land a plane, but a car and driver cost \$76? (The District notes this discrepancy and will address it this fall with a 2015 proposal) and what is happening with the theater? (The District and the Friends of the FI Theater are engaging the town with the expressed goal of opening next summer. This will not be easy as the gap between what needs to be done vs. what should be done is wide, but communication with the town is very good). Other topics included proper fund balance percentages increased debt service and accounting for town facilities within the District, changing the Enabling Act and District long range needs and planning.*

### **Exiting the Budget hearing:**

At 6:47 PM the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, that the public Budget Hearing be closed.

Proposed by Commissioner Parker

Seconded by Commissioner Rugg

Ayes: All

Nays: None

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners Fishers Island Ferry District will be held Monday, September 8th at 4:30 pm at the Fishers Island Community Center. This may be preceded by a public work session.

### **Meeting Adjournment:**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Rugg, and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.