

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
November 26, 2016

Commissioner Ahrens at the Fishers Island Community Center called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on November 26, 2016 at 9:02 AM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, Dianna Shillo, and Peter Rugg were present. Also in attendance were Gordon Murphy and members of the public. Commissioner Bloethe was absent.

Commissioner Ahrens established that a quorum was present. Everyone in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

It was noted that there was proper public notice for hearings on three matters with relevant documentation available on the FIFD website. Therefore it is resolved to open the public hearings.

Moved by: Commissioner A Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner P Rugg

Ayes: A Ahrens, H Burnham, P Rugg and D Shillo

Nays: None

Commissioner Ahrens asked the public to comment on Paul Ford dba Paul's Home Improvements assuming the balance of the lease of Harold's LLC in 209 Tyler Avenue (the freight building). The lease would terminate at the same date December 31, 2017. He noted that this was basically a name change. There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Ahrens asked the public to comment of the site lease extension at the airport for a weather station pole leased to WeatherFlow. The lease would now run through December 31, 2017 and he also noted that there were no economic terms associated with this lease. There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Ahrens asked Commissioner Rugg to lead the discussion of proposed amendments to the legislative act creating the FIFD. Commissioner Rugg described the various changes and the process with District counsel, the Town's Attorney and the Town Board. He listed the changes below.

Commissioner Rugg noted the six main topics that the board felt necessary to change:

- 1) Increasing the debt limit to \$20 million to allow for financing of the future purchase of replacement vessels.
- 2) Expansion of eligibility requirements for election of commissioner and voting to Fishers Island residents who do not own property on the Island.
- 3) Elimination of the Town's fiscal oversight of the District so that, with the exception of bonding, the BOC will assume full responsibility for the District's financial affairs.

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- 4) Clarification of Election process.
- 5) Clarification of Managerial duties and authorization for BOC to hire co-managers.
- 6) Elimination of unnecessary language regarding past events.

Several members of the public asked questions on the six topics and the need for change. Discussions ensued on the property management aspect, which has been tabled. There was also a discussion on the possibility that residents in rental property may have an incentive to increase property taxes to maintain low fares. It was noted that residents in rental housing pay an element of property tax in their rent, subject to escalation, and that it is most municipalities avoid such discrimination against voters in rental property. Another member of the public voiced his concern on the ability to support a large debt service and having a long-term capital expense plan. Commissioner Rugg outlined the present needs for replacement of the Munnatawket with a vessel of Race Point size, and the plans for repowering of Race Point. He also discussed the present levels of debt service. It was also discussed that the District carefully reviews all projects and seeks to have funding from grants, supplier financing, debt backed by the Town of Southold AA rating, increment revenues and property taxes if necessary. Members of the public thanked the Commissioners for the safe service in stormy weather, and applauded the friendly customer service provided by the crew.

At 10:00 AM Commissioner Ahrens motioned and Commissioner Burnham seconded to close the public hearing.

Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:30pm.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner A Ahrens, seconded by Commissioner H Burnham, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.