

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
February 21, 2017

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 February 21, 2017 at 4:35 PM.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, William Bloethe, Peter Rugg, and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Gordon Murphy, Diane Hansen, Geb Cook, Deanna Ross and members of the public.

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

**Correspondence** - Mr. Geb Cook reported that he received one letter of correspondence from the Fishers Island Community Center requesting to charter the ferry on Saturday, July 8, 2017 for the 12th annual fireworks cruise.

**Fireworks Cruise**

RESOLUTION 2017 - 031

WHEREAS, the Island Community Center has for many years chartered a ferry so that interested community members might watch 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary SailFest’s fireworks on July 8th; and

WHEREAS, the Island Community Center has requested the same this year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Island Community Center may charter a ferry and crew for the purpose of a fireworks cruise on Saturday, July 8, 2017, at the price of \$1900.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Rugg

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

Nays: None

**Public Comment** – Members of the FIFD employee union questioned the Board regarding the status of the advancement ladder. Discussion ensued. Chairman Ahrens expressed appreciation in the patience of the staff and encouraged the BOC to move forward now that Mr. Cook is on board. Management agreed to present the Advancement Ladders to the BOC at the next meeting. The spring BOC meeting at the New London terminal was changed to April 17, 2017 at 1:45pm due to scheduling conflicts.

Commissioner Ahrens presented to the BOC and staff members, the idea of creating or branding FIFD apparel that would be sold to generate revenue. Staff members expressed they thought it was a great idea. Mrs. Jane Ahrens was appointed to structure a contest of proposed logos.

### **Minutes**

#### **RESOLUTION 2017 - 032**

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the minutes of the February 6, 2017 meeting as proposed.

Moved by: Commissioner Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

#### **RESOLUTION 2017 - 033**

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the minutes of the February 10, 2017 meeting as proposed.

Moved by: Commissioner Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

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

Nays: None

### **Warrants**

#### **RESOLUTION 2017 - 034**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated February 21, 2017, in the amount of \$95,334.92

Moved by: Commissioner Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

### **Management reports**

RP Yard period – Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Plans are for the MV Race Point to be launched February 22, 2017 for dockside testing. The dead weight survey is planned for Thursday, February 23, 2017. The MV Race Point is scheduled to be back in service by March 20, 2017. Mr. Burns and Gilbert Associates are working to expedite the US Coast Guard approval of the dead weight surveys.

MV Munnatawket – Mr. Cook updated the BOC that the MV Munnatawket is running well but there are plans to pull the boat from service after the MV Race Point is in the water to take a further exploration

of the engine failure. The FIFD has explored the parts used when the engine was rebuilt by Detroit mechanics. The fuel has been tested and came back within spec. The oil has been tested but results are still pending. The FIFD will meet with Fairhaven's owner, Kevin to assess the possibility of recouping some of the costs incurred from the MV Munnatawket engine failure. In addition, Mr. Cook informed the BOC that the MV Munnatawket completed its Certificate of Inspection with the US Coast Guard and passed with flying colors. Compliments from management and the BOC were extended to the crew for an outstanding performance.

North Ramp Dolphins and Pilings Update – Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Keith Nielsen from Docko, Inc. informed Mr. Cook that he believes that permitting for the North Ramp dolphins has not expired and has sent out a letter to get that permit extended. This will expedite the work and allow the FIFD to issue RFPs.

Passenger Ferry Update – Mr. Cook has been in discussions with Blackbird VII, LLC. Schedules and rates will be presented to the BOC for approval. Blackbird VII, LLC would like to start the extended hovercraft trial in April 2017

### **Passenger ferry service**

RESOLUTION 2017 - 035

Whereas the Board of Commissioners upon recommendation of management wishes to supply passenger-only service in 2017 on a trial basis;

Therefore it is RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Ferry District agree to proceed with an additional trial of a high speed passenger service provided by Blackbird VII, LLC., and,

it is further RESOLVED to authorize management to execute all documents for this service subject to legal review and documentation that all necessary insurance, regulatory matters and liability waivers are in force.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Rugg

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

Nays: None

Communications – Mr. Cook informed the BOC that there has been a recent improvement in communications. An e mail blast went out to all resident islanders and notifications of changes in ferry service were posted on Facebook and the FIFD website during the MV Munnatawket engine emergency. Mr. Cook will investigate options with Advantech to allow for blast emails and texts to go out to all passengers with ferry reservations in the event of cancellations. In addition, management continues to work with Advantech in allowing for internal changes of notifications on the FIFD website.

### **Fairhaven Amendment – MU emergency**

RESOLUTION 2017 - 036

WHEREAS, the MV Munnatawket developed a mechanical malfunction on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and repairs were made by Ferry District personnel and; whereas the repairs were not sufficient and the engine was taken off line and; whereas it was determined that a specialist firm should be engaged to analyze and repair the engine.

Therefore it is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners, hereby declares the inoperable condition of the Munnatawket an emergency, waives the requirement for competitive bids and authorizes management to engage Fairhaven Shipyard, a Detroit diesel agent and repair facility, to immediately repair the Munnatawket's engine, the cost not to exceed \$25,000.

Moved by: Commissioner Rugg

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

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

Nays: None

Traffic Report – Mr. Cook summarized the latest traffic report. January 2017 reported a decrease of 1,000 passengers from January 2016 credited to multiple school and boat cancellations. January 2017 reported 97% on time statistics.

Finance – Diane Hansen reported to the BOC that members of the Finance Committee developed a spreadsheet that will allow presenting monthly expenses against the monthly budget.

Angel flights – Chairman Ahrens reported to the BOC that Angel Flights were a recent discussion at the last Island Community Board meeting. Angel Flights are a volunteer service that provide transport of hospice nurses and therapists to the island when necessary and the ICB members are asking the BOC to consider waiving any fees associated with Angel Flights.

### **Angel flights**

RESOLUTION 2017 - 037

Whereas air transport of medical personnel ("Angel Flights") provides a necessary service to the island inhabitants.

It is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners waives the landing fees from Angel Flights.

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham

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

Nays: None

Hanger Update – Commissioner Rugg distributed a brochure from Brad Burnham outlining the proposed hanger at the airport. Commissioner Rugg has asked the BOC to table for next meeting and at that time will discuss a resolution to move forward with construction and land lease of the hanger.

Enabling Act Update – Commissioner Rugg updated the BOC regarding the Enabling Act. Council continues to move forward with a target date of January 1, 2018. Commissioner Rugg will keep the BOC posted of progress.

### **Executive Session**

At 18:31, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Proposed by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

At 18:45, the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, that the Commission exit from Executive Session and resume Public Session.

Proposed by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

### **HR**

RESOLUTION 2017 - 038

Whereas John Paradis will be going out on an extended medical leave and whereas the Ferry District requires the services of mechanics and engineers.

Therefore it is RESOLVED that The Board of Commissioners authorize management to source engineers and mechanics as needed during his medical leave absence and recovery period, the cost not to exceed \$115 per hour.

Moved by: Commissioner Rugg

Seconded by: Commissioner Ahrens

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

Nays: None

**Next Scheduled Meeting** – Monday, March 6, 2017 at 4:30pm.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner W. Bloethe, seconded by Commissioner D. Shillo, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.