

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
September 18, 2017

Commissioner Ahrens at the Fishers Island Community Center called to order a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) on September 18, 2017 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners William Bloethe, Heather Burnham, and D. Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook and Deanna Ross. Commissioner P. Rugg, RJ Burns and Diane Hansen were present via phone.

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

Correspondence/Public Comment – Mr. Cook informed the BOC that a letter was received from Rev. Candy Whitman requesting if management and the BOC would consider changing the Sunday 7am boat departing from New London to 8am to accommodate guest speakers and musicians on Sunday morning church service at the Union Chapel which begins at 10am. Mr. Cook has agreed to evaluate over the next coming year. An email was received by Fishers Island School Principal, Christian Arsenault expressing thanks and gratitude to the Ferry District and crew members for holding the annual ferry safety day. Chairman Ahrens reported to the BOC that he received a phone call from Mrs. Patty Faulkner requesting if someone was available to go to the utility office and explain the new two-way ticketing system to her and staff members. Mr. Cook agreed to take that responsibility. There was no public comment.

Impending Weather - Mr. Burns informed the BOC that he has been in contact with Mr. Arsenault and the FI School. Mr. Burns does not foresee any upcoming cancellations with the current ferry schedule. The cargo run has been moved to Friday and will be on MV Munnatawket. Both barges will be removed from Silver Eel Cove due to impending weather.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2017 - 166

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the July 24, 2017 meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 - 167

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the August 7, 2017 meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo
Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham and D. Shillo
Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 - 168

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the August 18, 2017 meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham
Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham and D. Shillo
Nays: None

Warrants

RESOLUTION 2017- 169

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated September 18th, 2017 in the amount of \$66,365.09.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens
Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham and D. Shillo
Nays: None

Traffic - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Traffic was down by 7% in August 2017. Mr. Cook stated that contributing factors could be decreased house rentals as well as a decrease in FI Club members due to the renovation project. After review of the charts and graphs, Mr. Rugg noted that the number of cars that were reported in June 2015 was 5,500 but no more than 3,500 for June 2016 and 2017. As a result, Mr. Rugg asked Mr. Cook to double check that the numbers are correct because of the large variance.

Finance - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Numbers to date are right around budget. Expenses to budget were down. Expenses were up in August due to three payrolls in the month. Multiple financial reports were provided to the BOC and Mr. Cook has asked the BOC to choose a format that would be most beneficial and useful. The BOC has agreed to choose one at the next BOC meeting.

Winter Schedule - Mr. Cook reviewed the proposed Winter Schedule for October 26, 2017 through April 4, 2018. Friday night 6:15 pm departure time from New London has been changed to 6:30 pm to accommodate a train that arrives in New London at 6:22 pm. Consequently, Friday departure time from Fishers Island has been changed from 7:00pm to 7:15 pm. In addition, the Sunday departure time from Fishers Island has been changed from 5:00 pm to 5:15 pm to accommodate a shorter wait time for passengers traveling on the Shoreline East train departing New London at 6:32 pm.

RESOLUTION 2017 - 170

Resolved that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the 2017/2018 Winter schedule for the period October 26, 2017 through April 4, 2018.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

SEC Dolphin Project - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Three more dolphins remain to be completed.

Race Point Update - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. Installation of the R60 insulation is scheduled to take place the last two weeks of October 2017. During this time, Fairhaven Shipyard will return to re-paint the areas of peeling on the car deck that is under warranty.

Munnatawket Update - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. Fairhaven Shipyard completed the re-painting of the peeling car deck that was under warranty during the week of September 11. Mr. Burns received several good engine estimates and good response from several engine manufacturers, including Cummins, Caterpillar, John Deere and Scania. Mr. Burns believes that the cost of installation will be roughly double the cost of the engines. Mr. Burns is awaiting response from Gilbert Associates, our marine engineers, who are reviewing and assessing the estimates. John Gilbert will be reviewing the CAD drawings of the engines to determine that the engines will fit in the engine room, as the boat has low overhead clearance. Gilbert will also determine the compatibility of the horsepower with the current reduction gears and the need to change or re-pitch the propellers. Mr. Cook informed the BOC that notice of public hearing was posted in The Day Newspaper September 18 for the bonding of \$300,000 for the engines. Mr. Cook will also be posting the public hearing throughout different places on Fishers Island. Anchor Insulation visited and looked at Munnatawket. Anchor Insulation informed Mr. Burns that the price would be the same regardless if the insulation was installed at the Shipyard or dock side in New London. All Yard package submittals were due September 18 at 1:30 pm. Proposals were sent to five shipyards and only one submittal was received, which was from Fairhaven. Opening of the bid will take place September 19, 2017.

Dredging - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. The environmental application is not complete but is expected to be complete by early next week. Once this is complete, management will proceed with the bonding for the dredging in Silver Eel Cove.

Internet Service Award

RESOLUTION 2017 - 171

Whereas upgraded internet service is required in the New London Terminal (Ethernet internet access); and

Whereas a Request for Proposals was issued and advertised in a widely circulated publication; and

Whereas three proposals were received, the proposals conform to the published specifications, the pricing is acceptable to management, and management recommends accepting the proposal from Frontier Communications Corporation; now therefore it is

Resolved that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the bid from Frontier Communications Corporation for \$550 per month to provide Ethernet internet access, including new fiber optic cable from the Frontier underground cable network to the Fishers Island Ferry Terminal in New London; and be it further

Resolved to authorize management to review and authorize change orders which may decrease the monthly charge and to authorize management to execute contract and ancillary documents for this project after review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

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

Nays: None

Executive Session

At 17:25, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

At 18:12, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

HR

RESOLUTION 2017- 172

WHEREAS Richard Jenkins has resigned from his position as Deckhand (FIFD) with the Fishers Island Ferry District effective August 31, 2017;

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts the resignation of Mr. Jenkins with effect August 31, 2017. Mr. Jenkins has no paid time off accruals and no further payments are due to him.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham
Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, D. Shillo
Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 – 173

WHEREAS Resolution 2017 – 160 appointing Sarah Freeman as a Clerk did not specify whether her position is full-time or part-time;

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED to amend resolution 2017-160 to specify that Ms. Freeman is appointed as a part-time Clerk with effect September 14, 2017.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens
Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, D. Shillo
Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 – 174

WHEREAS resolution 2017-159 regarding Mr. Ryan Healy contained errors:

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to rescind resolution 2017-159.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham
Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, D. Shillo
Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 – 175

WHEREAS Ryan Healy meets the requirements for senior deckhand; and

WHEREAS, management recommends that Ryan Healy be promoted from deckhand to senior deckhand;

It is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the FIFD appoints Ryan Healy to senior deckhand, with an increase in wages from \$16.08 to \$18.00, with effect August 31, 2017.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo
Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, D. Shillo
Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 - 176

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires an additional full-time Freight Agent (FIFD); and

WHEREAS Jaime Albohn meets the Civil Service minimum qualifications of a Freight Agent; therefore, it is

RESOLVED that Jaime Albohn is appointed full-time Freight Agent (FIFD) effective October 2, 2017 at a rate of \$16.00 per hour.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, October 16, 2017 at 4:30pm with a 3:30 working session at the Island Community Center. There will be a special meeting to approve the 2016 audit before September 30, 2017.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner A. Ahrens, seconded by Commissioner D. Shillo, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.