

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
November 13, 2017

Commissioner Ahrens at the Fishers Island Ferry District New London Terminal called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on November 13, 2017 at 1:45 PM.

Commissioners William Bloethe, Heather Burnham, Peter Rugg and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, RJ Burns, Diane Hansen and Deanna Ross. Employees of the Ferry District present included J. Paradis, P. Ford, M. Fiora, N. Espinosa, D. Gilman, R. Healy, J. Hiller, K. Dorsett, C. Ricker and K. Norton.

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

Correspondence/Public Comment – Mr. Cook reported that no correspondence was received. Polly Ford spoke on behalf of the FIFD crew and asked the following questions to the BOC and Management:

1. When will the Advancement Ladder be posted? Mr. Cook responded that the advancement ladder has been signed for and is available for posting now. Mr. Cook will supply a copy to P. Ford for posting.
2. When will people be classified in accordance with some of the new titles that are on the advancement ladder? Mr. Murphy responded that he will begin working on the internal titles immediately and will have them completed in two weeks. The question was raised if employees could expect a wage adjustment at that time. Mr. Cook responded that management is open for suggestions but feels the process is occurring while in negotiations with the union. P. Ford responded that her concern was people having the accurate job title whether internal or civil service and would like to see everyone under their respective title under the advancement ladder, whether it creates a wage increase or not.
3. Employees use their personal vehicles daily to complete banking duties for the ferry district and would like assurance that such employees are covered under the District’s policy while performing those duties. Commissioner Rugg has suggested that management check the current coverage with the District’s carrier. Mr. Cook expressed that his understanding was one received travel reimbursement while using one’s personal vehicle. Mr. Cook has stated that when performing these duties, it is best to use a company vehicle to be covered under the District’s policy and if using one’s personal vehicle ask for reimbursement or refuse. Mr. Cook has agreed to reach out to the insurance carrier for suggestions and have a response to P. Ford by Friday.
4. P. Ford stated that she would like to see the meeting minutes more expansive and to see them posted in a more timely manner. Commissioner Rugg responded that best practice for taking minutes is to make sure that the overall fact of discussion happened and that any decisions made are recorded. Mr. Rugg stated that we have open meetings and all are welcome to come and listen to any discussion. Mr. Cook stated that minutes must be approved prior to public disclosure.
5. Is there a possibility to have official contact information for the FIFD Commissioners on the roster page of the website for customers? Mr. Cook responded that the Commissioners’ ferry emails could be posted. Commissioner Rugg suggested that contact information should be readily available on the

website and not on a download. In addition, Mr. Cook also suggested including photos of crew members on the website to help put names to faces. No decision was made regarding photos.

6. A crew member, Chris Newell asked how much revenue did the ferry district generate from the Hovercraft? Mr. Cook responded that the Ferry District generated \$1,500 which was 30% of the shared revenue after operating costs. A question was asked if the ferry would continue that relationship next year. Chairman Ahrens responded that the BOC has not come to a final decision, but there was overall positive response from customers. When crew members were asked their overall response from customers regarding the hovercraft, many felt it was positive.
7. The BOC was asked a question by R. Healy if there was any thought of a stipend or reimbursement to those employees who are not enrolled in the district's healthcare plan, because they are covered under a separate healthcare plan. Mr. Cook feels that this is a practice that is occurring more and more and management will look into making that an option. Chairman Ahrens asked employees present if they were still happy with the healthcare coverage that the District provides. P. Ford responded that there have been bumps with the new product but the Gowrie Group has been extremely helpful when questions arise. Commissioner Shillo has encouraged all employees with ferry district healthcare coverage to utilize the resources that the Gowrie Group has provided.

Chairman Ahrens, at the urging of his fellow Commissioners would like to thank the crew and especially the Captains for their patience in dealing with the delayed ramp repair and their expertise maneuvering around the barge that was present in Silver Eel Cove during the repair.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2017 - 211

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the September 29, 2017 meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2017 - 212

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the October 16, 2017 meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

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

Nays: None

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2017 - 213

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated November 13, 2017 in the amount of \$548,040.10.

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

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2017 - 214

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby amends the 2017 Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Decrease Appropriations

SM1950.4.000.000	Property Tax New London	\$334
	Total	\$334

Increase Appropriations

SM5710.4.000.400	Printed Material	\$334
	Total	\$334

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

Traffic Update - Mr. Cook reviewed the monthly traffic report which saw increases across the board (see Exhibit A). Commissioner Rugg questioned the on-time performance which fell below 90% for the first time in a while. Mr. Burns reported that there has been an increase in cargo runs, largely fuel charters that impact on time performance.

Munnatawket/Race Point Updates - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. On Friday, November 17, 2017, film students from Wesleyan College will be conducting a photo shoot on the Race Point for a senior thesis project. Mr. Burns stated that this would be very low impact and most likely occur on the noon boat as it is less crowded. In addition, Mr. Burns reached out to the Fishers Island School asking for any film students that would be interested in participating.

The chafing strips to complete the North and South Ramps are expected in on November 29, 2017. Once they arrive, Mohawk will install.

Mr. Burns will be traveling to Fairhaven shipyard on November 14, 2017, to go over the work list for MV Munnatawket. Part of the re-power project for Munnatawket will include another dead weight survey.

Data gathering will be done in house for the naval architect in efforts of cost savings. The Gilbert agreement was approved by the BOC and TOS and once all specifications are completed by Gilbert and approved by the Marine Safety Center, Mr. Burns will then publish the RFP for engine installation. Mr. Burns plans on meeting with the engine vendors during the week to review the project with their engineers. The shipyard period is moving within the planned timeframe. Propellers are being removed today. Steel work has started. Mr. Burns anticipates a few change orders including the addition of another cleat to account for the change in the pilings on the North Ramp. While in the shipyard, a condition and value survey will be conducted by the insurance carrier. A-60 insulation will be installed during the shipyard period.

Race Point had a condition and value survey completed on November 9th for the insurance underwriter. The A-60 insulation install was completed and the US Coast Guard inspected and approved the work. The crew cabin rehab continues with plans to re-insulate and run new wires to facilitate easier maintenance.

All the facilities of the Ferry District will be having their property risk assessment and coverage survey during the week of November 13, 2017.

Mr. Burns reached out to the Block Island ferries and told the BOC that they are open to leasing the ferry district one of their smaller boats as an alternate to the North Star. Mr. Burns plans on inspecting the boat.

Mr. Burns reported that the perforated tickets arrived today and once designed and printed will replace hole punching of the two way tickets.

Docko - Mr. Cook asked Docko for a written explanation of the various delays during the dolphin project. Many of the delays were due to weather and obstructions under the water which required re-engineering of the dolphins, but Mr. Cook felt the project could have been completed sooner. Mr. Cook reported that the job was of high quality and no change orders were assessed because of the extended time it took to complete. Mr. Burns reported that the product received will last for many years and that the ramp is easily modifiable to fit a new boat in the future.

Medical Travel - Mr. Murphy reviewed with the BOC our current policies and sales reports that suggest free medical travel was being provided without BOC approval, management has suggested to the BOC to adopt a new medical travel policy. Discussion ensued.

RESOLUTION 2107 - 215

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby revokes the Policy for Passengers with Ambulatory Difficulties approved April 3, 2012. It is further

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District approves Medical Travel policy (20171113) as follows.

Customers who must travel to the mainland for medical therapy may contact the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District to request fare abatement.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

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

Nays: None

Hanger Update - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. After the last BOC meeting, Mr. Cook reached out to Mr. Brad Burnham asking for his comments in response to Martin Finnegan's comments. Mr. Burnham has not replied. Commissioner Rugg requested Mr. Cook reach out to counsel R. Miller regarding the possibility of exemption from prevailing wage requirements if a ground lease were negotiated.

209 Tyler (Freight Building) Update - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Walsh Park Association is moving forward with a feasibility study for the possibility of creating housing on the second story of the Fishers Island freight building. Mr. Cook looked into possibilities of New York State grants and reported that several grants exist. A feasibility condition report grant is available in July 2018; however, Walsh Park Association does not want to wait until July 2018 and has asked Dick Strouse from CME to conduct an engineering study. A historic district grant opportunity is available for Fort Wright but none for roof replacement or repair.

The BOC has determined that no Executive Session is needed.

Property Lease Public Hearing - Mr Murphy has suggested to the BOC that a public hearing for renewal of property leases take place at the December 11, 2017 BOC meeting. All members of the BOC were in favor.

Airport Terminal Roof Damage - Mr. Murphy reported that the insurance adjuster visited November 15nd is awaiting their report. Management has put the roof repair out for bid. No bid proposals have been received to date.

PVA Meeting

RESOLUTION 2107 - 216

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby grants permission to Marine Operations Supervisor Jon Haney to attend the PVA Great Lakes, Original Colonies and Canadian Passenger Vessel Association and Region Meeting Regional Conference from November 8 to 10, 2017 at the Marriot on the Falls in Niagara Falls, New York. All expenses for registration and travel, including meals, not to exceed \$1,500.00, will be a legal charge to the 2017 District budget, SM5710.4.000.950 Training and Education.

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

Other - Mr. Murphy asked that an inherent conflict of interest be recorded in the minutes. During the summer, the Ferry District experimented with selling books of tickets at the Village Market in an effort

to provide customers an opportunity to buy ferry tickets outside of a Ferry District venue and expressed that an inherent conflict of interest was not noted prior to the action.

Chairman Rugg reported that he had a discussion with a naval architect from CDI Marine last week regarding the possibility of purchasing and re-configuring a haul from a supply boat market out of the Gulf of Mexico. Commissioner Rugg feels it could be a potential alternate supplier and suggested to keep them in mind.

Discussion ensued among BOC members regarding the possibility of selling beverages, donuts, etc., on the boats. Mr. Burns continues to look into possibilities. Mr. Cook stated that Civil Service is amenable but only with credit cards so there would be no cash transactions.

Next Scheduled Meeting – **Monday, November 27, 2017 at 4:30pm** at the Island Community Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner P. Rugg, seconded by Commissioner W. Bloethe, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Exhibit A

October 2017 Traffic

	2017	2016	2015	'17 vs. '16	'17 vs. '15	17 vs. '16	17 vs. '15
Passengers	10,611	9286	9857	↑1325	↑754	↑12%	↑7%
Vehicles	2847	2714	2727	↑133	↑120	↑5%	↑4%
Commercial	445	350	379	↑95	↑66	↑21%	↑15%
On-Time	89%	86%	83%	↑3%	↑6%		
Late (>5 mins)	11%	14%	17%	↑3%	↑6%		

2-Way ticketing began on October 1st.

Winter Schedule began October 26th, eliminating the Sunday 1:30/2:45pm

Moved the 6:15NL-FI to 6:30 for a 6:22pm NYC-NL train

Columbus Day Weekend: Busy Friday evening/night and Saturday morning NI-FI
 Busy all day Sunday, Monday and first 2 trips Tuesday FI-NL

Cancelled the 1130/1245 on 10/30 South winds gusting to 50 kts with an ebb tide

Total trips:	29	(145 round trips, including cargos and charters)
	0	
Cargo runs:	14	(4 days total, 7 round trips)
Charter Runs:	0	
Trips Cancelled (Wx):	2	

Total Late Trips:		60
Late due to Bump&Run:		29
Late due to Cargo Run:		7

Late due to Weather:		3	
Late (Manifest):		14	
Late due to Freight:		1	U.S Mail
Late due to drivers:		0	
Late (Train):		1	
Late vehicle/passenger		2	
Other		2	(HR) New tix system, short staffed

On time percentage including Bump & Run: 79 % (method used in previ-
ous years)

On time percentage excluding Bump & Run: 89 %