

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
February 20, 2018

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 20, 2018 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners William Bloethe, Heather Burnham and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, RJ Burns, John Haney, Diane Hansen and Deanna Ross. Commissioner Peter Rugg was absent. Public members Matt Edwards and Thomas Shillo were present.

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. During public comment, Mr. Edwards requested permission from the BOC to clean up and preserve some of the Fort Wright areas. Mr. Edwards is currently a member of the Coastal Defense Study Group. Currently Fort Wright is listed in the top three of the most endangered coastal fortification areas in the world. The goal would be to maintain, preserve and restore some of the batteries, fire control towers and switchboard rooms over the long term. Most of these structures are on FIFD property and Mr. Edwards is asking permission to move forward. Mr. Murphy has asked Mr. Edwards to submit a broad written outline and will proceed from there.

**Budget Mod**

RESOLUTION 2018 – 021

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

Decrease Appropriations

SM5610.2.000.000	Airport Capital	\$ 600.00
SM1310.4.000.000	Accounting/Fin	\$ 10,430.00
SM5710.2.000.000	Both Vessels	\$ 1,000.00
	Total	<u>\$ 12,030.00</u>

Increase Appropriations

SM5610.4.000.000	ElizAirportCE	\$ 600.00
SM1420.4000.000	LegalFees	\$ 10,430.00

SM5710.2.000.200	Race Point	\$ 1,000.00
	Total	\$ 12,030.00

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

**Warrant**

RESOLUTION 2018 - 022

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated February 20, 2018, in the amount of \$62,670.52.

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

**Traffic Report** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC on Traffic for January 2018. Passenger, Vehicle and Commercial traffic was up from 2017. Four round trips were cancelled in January due to snow storms. Six trips were late due to low water/low tide advisory. Mr. Haney reported that the Fathometer was reading 3.2 feet underneath the keel during some of the trips. Many of these trips were delayed for one hour to allow for the tide to rise. On-time performance for the month was 95%.

**Finance Report** - Ms. Hansen updated the BOC. Reports for December 31, 2017 have been sent to BOC members. The year has not been closed and still in progress; however, as of now, Ms. Hansen reported a possible net profit of \$40,000 for the year. January 2018 is similar to January 2017; however more property tax money was received during January 2018 than January 2017.

**Management Reports**

**Munnatawket/RP Update** - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. Regarding the Munnatawket Re-power, Mr. Burns spoke with the naval architects this morning and the blue prints will be sent to US Coast Guard headquarters February 23, 2018 for plan approval. This process should take approximately two weeks. Once plans are approved with the specifications, management can move forward and advertise to potential vendors. The goal remains to have the re-power completed before peak season 2018. Mr. Burns reported that the install should take approximately 4-6 weeks. Two sets of plans and specifications were requested with one including existing reduction gears and one with new reduction gears. Mr. Burns feels it is prudent to purchase new reduction gears with new engines but understands budgeting constraints. Mr. Cook reported that the new engines came in below the initial budget of \$300,000 and management feels optimistic that the FIFD will have enough in the budget to cover new reduction gears, and that purchasing new reduction gears would be optimum. Munnatawket is back from Fairhaven Shipyard. Crew members are doing some maintenance and repairs dockside before the boat goes online on February 28, 2018.

**Fishing Vessel** - Mr. Gary Yerman, president of New London Seafood Distributors (NLSD) has proposed utilizing the Fishers Island ferry dock for the purpose of unloading and transporting prepackaged seafood. Mr. Yerman was unable to attend the February 20, 2018 BOC meeting and Mr. Burns briefed the BOC in Mr. Yerman's absence and reported that Mr. Yerman will be attending the next BOC meeting for a formal presentation of his proposal. Mr. Burns reported that after meeting with Mr. Yerman, he would be landing approximately 3-6 times per week in the winter months and 9-15 times in the summer months. The FIFD would collect touch fees for all landings. Mr. Burns stated that Mr. Yerman has repeatedly emphasized his willingness to mitigate noise and light concerns. Mr. Burns has recommended to the BOC to undergo a ten day test period. After discussion, the BOC has agreed to undergo a ten day test period after all property owners and residents have been made aware of the proposal, beginning March 12, 2018.

**Other** - Mr. Murphy reported that this past winter has been the first winter in years without any great issues with the boats and the need to charter the Cross Sound Ferry and would like to thank Mr. Burns and his team for their diligence over the years in getting the boats back to a reliable state.

**Windows** - Commissioner Shillo questioned Mr. Burns regarding the status of the new bridge windows of Munnatawket. Mr. Burns reported that the correct windows were ordered and once they arrive, Fairhaven Shipyard will come to New London to install them.

**Airport Hangar Update** - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Mr. Cook received an email from Mr. Finnegan stating that he is working with Mr. Duffy on the sub-division of the property and stated that a ground lease is workable. Mr. Cook has forwarded this information to Mr. Bern Weintraub and is waiting for a response.

**Theatre Update** - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Mr. Finnegan and Mr. Duffy are working on the sub-division of property at the theatre. Mr. Cook has forwarded this information to Mr. Fowler and is waiting for his response as to whether a ground lease is acceptable. Discussion ensued regarding legal fees; the BOC has agreed to work with Mr. Fowler regarding any legal fees

**Docko/SEC Dredging** - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that the FIFD is waiting for the permit. Once the permit is received then a survey and sampling will need to be completed. Management and the BOC plan that dredging will take place in the spring.

**Hovercraft** - Mr. Cook reported that no new information has been received.

**Resident on Subsidized Travel** - Ms. Hansen has asked the BOC to clarify its policy regarding subsidized travel. After discussion, the BOC has determined that any person charging to a commercial account will not receive the discounted resident rate under any circumstances. Residents who wish to receive reimbursement for ferry travel at a resident rate must themselves purchase a ticket and then submit the travel expenses to the appropriate entity for reimbursement.

**Capital Fund** - Ms. Hansen updated the BOC. At the request of the Finance Committee and recommendation by the auditors, the FIFD wishes to establish a Capital Fund to allow for accounting and budgeting of capital projects that carry over from budget years and require long term financing to be outside the annual operating budget and accounting.

## **Legal**

Fairhaven Change orders

Resolution 2018 - 023

Whereas Fairhaven Shipyard was contracted to perform maintenance on M/V Munnatawket; and

Whereas six (6) change orders were received totaling \$13,430.43, management reviewed the change orders, found the changes to be necessary and authorized performance of the work; and

Whereas growth in the cost of some job items was offset by shrinkage in the cost of other job items; now therefore, be it

Resolved that the Fishers Island Ferry District Board of Commissioners accepts change orders numbers one through six, totaling \$13,430.43. Be it further

Resolved that the amount not to be exceeded for the 2017 Munnatawket shipyard is \$207,430.43.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

## **FIWM lease**

RESOLUTION 2018 - 024

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the FIFD hereby approves a three year lease with the Fishers Island Waste Management District effective Jan 1, 2018 and ends December 31, 2021.

It is further RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the FIFD hereby authorizes and directs Assistant Manager, Gordon Murphy to execute said lease, subject to the approval of FIFD counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

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

Nays: None

## **Capital Fund**

Resolution 2018 - 025

Whereas the Ferry District has capital projects that carry over from budget years and may require long term financing; and

Whereas the use of a Capital Fund will allow for accounting and budgeting of these projects outside of the annual operating budget and accounting.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that the Fishers Island Ferry District Board of Commissioners authorizes the establishment of a Capital Fund to account for capital revenue and expense for long term projects.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

## **POE INS**

RESOLUTION 2018 - 026

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability Insurance;

Therefore it is RESOLVED to authorize Gordon Murphy to execute all documents to bind the Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability insurance coverage with Greenwich Insurance Company effective March 1, 2018.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

## **Executive Session**

At 18:00, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations conducted pursuant to the Taylor Law involving the CSEA and employment matters.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

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

Nays: None

At 18:42, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

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

Nays: None

## **HR**

RESOLUTION 2018 - 027

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect March 6, 2018, Mary Kirby as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2018 - 028

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect March 6, 2018, Leonard Ortiz as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2018 - 029

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Clerks and Cashiers;

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect March 6, 2018, Kathleen Alfred-Neiman as a part-time Cashier (FIFD) at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2018 – 030

WHEREAS the Fishers Island Ferry District policy as described in the Employee Handbook and the CSEA Collective Bargaining Agreement grants a 3% longevity increase to wages when an individual has been employed by the Fishers Island Ferry District for five years; and,

WHEREAS Robert Lavin has met that requirement. Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that Mr. Lavin's wages be increased from \$20.20 to \$20.81 per hour, effective February 28, 2018.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

RESOLUTION 2018 – 031

WHEREAS Benjamin Burdick has resigned from his position as part-time Deckhand (FIFD) with the Fishers Island Ferry District with effect January 31, 2018;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts his resignation and thanks him for his years of service.

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

RESOLUTION 2018 - 032

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Clerks and Cashiers for ticketing and reservations;

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect March 6, 2018, Hannah Peabody as a part-time Cashier (FIFD) at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.

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

**Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, March 5, 2018 at 4:30pm with a 3:30pm working session at the Island Community Center.**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner H. Burnham, seconded by Commissioner W. Bloethe, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.