

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
March 5, 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 March 5, 2018 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners William Bloethe, Heather Burnham, Peter Rugg and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, RJ Burns, John Haney, Diane Hansen and Deanna Ross. One member of the public was present.

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

**Correspondence/Public Comment** – Mr. Cook reported that after emailing neighbors of Silver Eel Cove regarding the fishing vessel trial, he received two emails with feedback. The concerns were similar to those already discussed among BOC members including noise, chum in the water, processing and lighting. Both emails asked if the trial could be extended because most residents around the cove are not here yet. Mr. Cook responded that the purpose of the current trial, when most residents were not here, is to allow management and the BOC to observe the process first. If it was apparent that the process would not work, there would be no need for future trials. Mr. Cook further commented that if another trial was necessary, they would be open to extending the trial period at a later date. Another criticism received was asking “why the trial period was not placed on the website?”. Mr. Cook responded that the BOC requested that neighbors around the cove be notified first and since then the fishing vessel trial proposition has been placed on various social media. There was public comment from Commissioner Burnham requesting that Mr. Edwards coordinate any work that he proposes for the preservation of Fort Wright structures with any lease holders that occupy space where these particular structures may be.

**Minutes**

RESOLUTION 2018 - 033

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the January 9, 2018 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 2018 - 034

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the minutes of the January 22, 2018 meeting.

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

**Budget Mod**

RESOLUTION 2018 – 035

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

Decrease Appropriations

SM.1930.4.000.000	Insurance Claim	\$ 500.00
	Total	\$ 500.00

Increase Appropriations

SM5710.4.000.000	Ferry Operations Other	\$ 500.00
	Total	\$ 500.00

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

**Warrant**

RESOLUTION 2018 - 036

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated March 5, 2018, in the amount of \$243,502.38.

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

**New London Seafood** - Mr. Gary Yerman, President of New London Seafood gave a presentation to the BOC during the working session prior to today's BOC meeting. The BOC has agreed to begin a trial period starting March 12, 2018 for ten days.

## **Management Reports**

**Munnatawket/RP Update** - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. The Munnatawket re-power plans went to USCG headquarters last week to be reviewed by the Marine Safety Center. Average turn around time is approximately two weeks. Once 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. Commissioner Shillo asked Mr. Burns if and what the captains would have to learn with the new re-power. Mr. Burns responded that the relearning would involve driving by wire as opposed to manual controls. In addition, acceleration and response time will be different. Mr. Burns informed the BOC that during times of inclement weather such as what was experienced on Friday, March 3, 2018, a mechanic and an additional captain or two is on the boat to provide reassurance and anticipate issues with the skilled man-power available to address them. Mr. Burns reported that the Request for Quotes was published in the January 31, 2017 New London Day newspaper for installation of new electronics. The soonest installation could conceivably take place would be March 28, 2018.

**Airport Hangar Update** - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. Mr. Cook received notification from the Town of Southold that the subdivision of the Airport and Theatre properties is almost complete. At the request of the Town of Southold, management provided a copy of the draft ground lease agreement, site sketch and project description that Bravo 39 proposed. Mr. Cook feels this is moving forward. Once this is in place, management can move forward with requests for proposals and permissive referendum which requires a 30 day waiting period. Commissioner Rugg asked if reimbursement for early legal expenses has taken place. Mr. Cook responded that no reimbursement has been received. Discussion ensued regarding proposed rent. No set rate has been agreed upon as of this time; however the BOC expressed the need to be consistent when setting rates.

**Traffic Update** - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. In February 2018, the FIFD ran 206 trips. There were 4 late trips with an on-time percentage of 98%. When the late trips do not account for the last trip of the day, on-time percentage is 99%. The BOC congratulated the crew.

**Hovercraft** - Mr. Cook reported that no new proposal or communication has been received.

**Subsidized Travel** - The BOC would like to minute the following: Effective immediately, employees from the Town of Southold, Suffolk County Health Department and Suffolk County Board of Elections traveling by way of the Fishers Island Ferry will be charged a non-resident rate, and not the commercial rate.

## **Other**

**Enabling Act Update** - Commissioner Rugg updated the BOC. Commissioner Rugg and Mr. Cook spoke with Senator Lavelle's Chief of Staff, as well as Member of the Assembly Anthony Pulumbo's Chief of Staff today. Fundamentally, the NY State Senate passed the amendment to the bill. The NY State Assembly had it hung up in committee. The Committee remains stalled despite receiving a clean bill of health from the New York State Comptrollers Office following the audit they completed three years ago.

Additional oversight may be needed from the TOS including signing off on bonding, as well as major projects that are approved by the BOC. Attorney Miller is going to pull the organizing documents from the School, Fire District and Waste Management and compare their powers versus the FIFD proposed powers in the Amendment and then propose a draft. Once the Assembly Committee receives satisfaction, Commissioner Rugg is hopeful that both the Assembly and the Senate will vote and approve of the amendment. Commissioner Rugg will keep the BOC updated as more information is received.

**Salt Storage Building** - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that the TOS has approved sending out request for bid proposals for the Fishers Island salt storage building. Commissioner Bloethe shared information where municipalities around the globe including the U.S, Canada and Austria are studying the use of environmentally friendly wood chips on icy roads as opposed to salt.

**Theatre** - Mr. Cook informed the BOC that the subdivision of the theatre grounds is close to completion by the TOS. Mr. Cook stated that Mr. Fowler remains concerned with the possibility of prevailing wage. Discussion ensued regarding the selling of the building and surrounding grounds versus selling of the building with a land lease. The BOC is in agreement that they are not in favor of selling the land; however, if prevailing wage becomes an issue, they will revisit the matter as all are in favor of Friends of the Fishers Island Theatre taking over the theatre.

**Civil Service** - Mr. Murphy informed the BOC that they are in conversations with Civil Service in trying to change the qualifications of freight agent to help with filling the position. As it is currently written, freight experience is a requirement, making hiring difficult. Mr. Murphy will reach out to the Fishers Island School Business Manager to discuss their process and point of contact when they recently changed qualification requirements of two civil service positions including secretary and custodian.

### **Executive Session**

At 18:20, 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 H. Burnham  
Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe  
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham, P. Rugg and D. Shillo  
Nays: None

At 18:26, the following resolution was proposed:

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

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

**Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, March 19, 2018 at 4:30pm at the Island Community Center.**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner W. Bloethe, seconded by Commissioner A. Ahrens, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm.