

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
March 19, 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 19, 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, Diane Hansen and Deanna Ross. RJ Burns was present via telephone. Members of the public included Meg Atkin and Staley Sednaoui who are representatives of the Friends of the Fishers Island Theater Board.

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

Correspondence/Public Comment – Mr. Cook received one letter of correspondence from Mr. Tom Shillo requesting consideration for reimbursement in the amount of \$300 for removal of junk vehicles in December 2017 prior to the junk car removal program. Mr. Cook informed the BOC that 35 vehicles have been removed since initiation of the program and there is consideration of extending the program due to its success. Discussion ensued and the BOC is in agreement to reimburse Mr. Shillo. Commissioner Shillo recused herself.

Theater Public Comment - Mr. Murphy reported that a zoning/planning review is in progress. Three options were proposed regarding the theatre building and its land including 1) the sale of the land and the building, 2) leasing the land and the building and 3) leasing the land with sale of the building. Mr. Murphy reported that legal opinion opined that prevailing wage would not be an issue. Mr. Cook reported that the president of the Friends of the Fishers Island Theater, Mr. Luke Fowler has expressed interest in the purchase of both the building and the land. The BOC has expressed that selling land they have been mandated to preserve would set an adverse precedent. Mr. Cook reminded all that the reasons for delay have been the need for the TOS to complete its sub-division, whether there is a ground lease or sale, and the confirmation of a 501(c)(3) and documentation of the necessary financial resources to take over the building. Ms. Atkin believes that 501(c)(3) status has been obtained and the Theatre group should be able to provide certification for tax status. Chairman Ahrens reported that the BOC has since received satisfaction of financial resources. Ms. Sednaoui stated that the issue of purchasing both the property and the land has not been brought to the theatre committee for discussion and the problem in the past has been fund raising for a building that was not owned. Commissioner Burnham shared the recent endeavors of Lighthouse Works and stated that a precedent has already been set in the community for a 501(c)(3) entity to put money into a building without a purchase. The FIFD is willing to go one step further and sell the building but is not comfortable giving up control of the land. Commissioner Rugg shared the extended history of the airport lands stating that when the government was selling off Fort Wright in the 1950's, the people of Fishers Island raised \$660,000 and bought the airport lands and gave them to TOS, with the understanding that the FIFD would manage the lands and keep the green space, etc. The enabling act was then modified to state that the TOS could not develop those lands without a public hearing on Fishers Island. The BOC wishes to stay true to that history. Discussion ensued. In moving forward, the BOC would like to approve of the sub division that the TOS is proposing and put together a draft document for sale of the building with a land lease for the Theater committee for review. Chairman Ahrens expressed that all members of the BOC are in support of the Theater Committee. Ms. Atkin and Ms. Sednaoui expressed gratitude to the BOC for supporting the theatre committee's mission to preserve the building as a theater and community space.

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Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2018 – 038

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

Decrease Appropriations

SM.5710.2.000.000	Ferry Repairs/Both Vessels	\$ 5,000.00
	Total	\$ 5,000.00

Increase Appropriations

SM.5710.2.000.100	Ferry Repairs/Munnatawket	\$ 5,000.00
	Total	\$ 5,000.00

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 - 039

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated March 19, 2018, in the amount of \$104,864.75.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2018 - 040

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant (A) dated March 19, 2018, in the amount of \$49,191.16.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

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Traffic Update - Mr. Murphy reviewed the following traffic data for February 2018.

February 2018 Traffic

	2018	2017	2016	2015
Passengers	5,358	4,964	5,115	4,340
Vehicles	1,443	1,306	1,419	1,176
Commercial	373	294	370	189
On-Time	98%	98%	95%	91%
Late (>5 mins)	2%	2%	5%	9%

'18 vs. '17	'18 vs. '16	18 vs. '15
↑394	↑243	↑1018
↑137	↑24	↑267
↑79	↑3	↑184
0%	↑3%	↑7%
0%	↑3%	↑7%

18 vs. '17	18 vs. '16	18 vs. '15
↑7%	↑5%	↑19%
↑9%	↑2%	↑19%
↑21%	0%	↑49%

Total trips:	260	(130 round trips, including cargos)
Cargo runs:	28	(7 days total, 14 round trips)
Charter Runs:	0	
Trips Cancelled (Wx):	0	

Total Late Trips:		4
Late due to Bump&Run:		1
Late due to Cargo Run:		2
Late due to Weather:		0
Late (Manifest):		0
Late due to Freight:		0
Late due to drivers:		0
Late (Train):		0
Late vehicle/passenger		1
Other		0

On time percentage including Bump & Run:
On time percentage excluding Bump & Run:

98% (method used in previous years)
99%

Finance Update - Commissioner Rugg updated the BOC. The Finance Committee met March 15th. Mr. Bob Coleman and Mr. Tom Cashel have joined the Finance Committee. The Committee discussed how February's expense control is under good management. The minutes of the Finance Committee will be circulated to all members of the BOC.

Legal - Mr. Murphy and Ms. Hansen updated the BOC. As of May 1, 2018, Dental Insurance and Life Insurance contracts are up for renewal. For dental insurance, MetLife came in lower than Empire for virtually the same coverage and offered a maximum of \$2,000 yearly benefit as opposed to Empire's \$1,500 and a two-year term plan. For life insurance, ShelterPoint has not increased their rates in three years and their coverage will be continued.

Dental Insurance Renewal

RESOLUTION 2018 - 041

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WHEREAS the current contract with Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield for dental insurance expires on May 1, 2018, two quotes were received for two year terms, and management recommends the MetLife two-year plan term based on best value;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby directs and authorizes Mr. Gordon Murphy to execute a contract for the \$2,000 maximum yearly benefit plan with MetLife dental insurance, administered by Employer's Dental Trust, and any related ancillary documents, and authorizes management to pay invoices when properly invoiced and approved by management.

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

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

Nays: None

Life Insurance Renewal

RESOLUTION 2018 - 42

WHEREAS the current contract with ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company for life insurance expires on May 1, 2018, two quotes were received, and management recommends renewing its contract with ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company based on best value;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the quote from ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company for a one-year contract, directs and authorizes Mr. Gordon Murphy to execute the contract, and authorizes management to pay invoices when properly invoiced and approved by management.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

Management Reports

New London Seafood - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. Due to inclement weather, the fishermen have not been able to fish the smaller boats; hence the delay in landing catches. According to Mr. Burns, there is possibility of New London Seafood landing a catch tomorrow morning. The BOC has requested that as much as possible, advance notice be given to them for the purpose of observation. Mr. Cook has agreed to text all BOC members when aware of landings.

FEMA drill - Mr. Burns informed the BOC that the annual FEMA drill for Fishers Island will be taking place Tuesday, March 20, 2018. In the event of an emergent evacuation, Race Point is able to carry 857 passengers and Munnatawket is able to carry 760 passengers.

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Munnatawket/RP Update - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. The Munnatawket Re-power installation legal notice was issued in the New London Day newspaper today. The time line is tight to expedite the process. Mr. Burns contacted five shipyards and electronically sent packages to them. As of today, Fairhaven and Goodison Shipyards responded. Bids are due by March 30, 2018 and the contract will be awarded April 11, 2018. Mr. Cook reminded the BOC that the engines are bonded for \$300,000. The cost of reduction gears is uncertain at this time. Cummins would be the supplier of the reduction gears. Mr. Burns is waiting to hear back from Cummins regarding the hard numbers of the reduction gears and their control systems associated with them. Cummins was unable to determine with certainty the turn around time for the reduction gears. Discussion ensued regarding the budget. Commissioner Rugg asked if Cummins would be willing to finance the reduction gears. Management will look into this. Mr. Burns is concerned the cost of the install could be more expensive if done this spring because of the compressed time line, increased overtime and parts availability. If the install could not occur this spring, it would be pushed back after the Race Point returned from its shipyard period in the fall 2018. The BOC has asked to wait for the bids and at that time will be better positioned to assess the budget and determine what course to take.

The Munnatawket has an issue with a coupling between the diesel engine and hydraulic pump of the bow thruster. The vessel is still useable if needed. The coupling was ordered and is expected to arrive by tomorrow for the crew to install.

The Race Point is undergoing maintenance in preparation for the upcoming season, including installation of new wood slats, painting and replacement of cushions. Clean up of the rust will occur as soon as the weather allows.

Marine Navigation Electronics - Mr. Burns informed the BOC that replacement of the navigation electronics on both boats is a huge safety upgrade, as Garmin is on its third or fourth generation of the electronics that are presently on the boats. Management is recommending the acceptance the quote received from Dockside Electronics Service.

Legal

RESOLUTION 2018 – 043

Whereas replacement marine navigation electronics are required for the M/V Race Point and M/V Munnatawket; and

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

Whereas management has received one quote from Dockside Electronics Service of Mystic, CT to supply replacement marine navigation equipment for the M/V Race Point and M/V Munnatawket; and

Whereas management recommends the acceptance of the Dockside Electronic s Service quote.

Therefore it is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the quote of \$21,705.20 from Dockside Electronics Service of Mystic, CT; and

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It is further RESOLVED to authorize management to review and authorize change orders up to \$2,170.52; the total cost not to exceed \$23,875.72, and further authorizes District Manager Mr. George Cook to execute all contracts and ancillary documents, subject to review by counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner P. Rugg

Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

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

Nays: None

Airport Hangar Update - Mr. Cook sent Mr. Brad Burnham the proposed monthly rental rate of \$634 based on 0.03/square foot which is consistent with other FIFD land leases. In order to move forward with the property, a completed ground lease and public hearing must take place. Mr. Burnham has expressed concern for this rate and will be reaching out to BOC Chairman, Ace Ahrens.

Hovercraft - Mr. Cook reported that no further news has been received.

Dredging Update - Mr. Cook reported that no further news has been received and the permitting process is still underway.

Executive Session

At 18:08, 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 W. Bloethe

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

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

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

Nays: None

Junk Vehicles

RESOLUTION 2018 – 044

It is RESOLVED to amend resolution 2017-240 by changing the fare abatement termination date from March 15, 2018 to March 31, 2018.

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

HR

RESOLUTION 2018 – 045

Whereas the Fishers Island Ferry requires knowledgeable, trained staff at its Fishers Island facility.

Therefore it is RESOLVED to authorize management to execute an independent contractor agreement with Deborah Doucette for freight agent training and other related services, subject to review by counsel.

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

RESOLUTION 2018 - 046

It is RESOLVED to rescind resolution 2018-072.

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 - 047

Whereas Robert Lavin and Carlton Wilcox have fulfilled the requirements for advancement to Freight Agent (FIFD),

it is RESOLVED that Robert Lavin be appointed Freight Agent (FIFD) with effect March 1, 2018, and be released from his current title Purser (FIFD) at the end of business April 30, 2018.

It is further RESOLVED that Carlton Wilcox be appointed Freight Agent (FIFD) with effect March 1, 2018, and be released from his current title Cashier (FIFD) at the end of business April 30, 2018.

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

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RESOLUTION 2018 - 048

WHEREAS Katarzyna Asmolov has exceeded the requirements of the Account Clerk Typist (FIFD) position;

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED to increase Ms. Asmolov's wages from \$20.00 to \$20.40, with effect March 15, 2018.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner P. Rugg

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION 2018 - 049

WHEREAS Derek Scroton has resigned from his position as Freight Agent (FIFD) with the Fishers Island Ferry District effective May 1, 2018.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts the resignation of Mr. Scroton with effect May 1, 2018 and thanks him for his years of service.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

Seconded by: Commissioner P. Rugg

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

Nays: None

Next Scheduled Meeting – **Monday, April 2, 2018 at 4:30pm with a 3:30 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 D. Shillo, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.